E/1994/40
E/ECA/CM.20/38

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

# ANNUAL REPORT

7 MAY 1993 - 5 MAY 1994

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 1994

Supplement No. 20

UNITED NATIONS

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## CONTENTS


| | | Paragraphs | Page |
|---|---|---|---|
| ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS | | | iii |
| INTRODUCTION | | 1 | 1 |
| CHAPTERS | | | |
| I. | MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION | 2 - 3 | 1 |
| | A. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council | 2 | 1 |
| | B. Issues brought to the attention of the Council | 3 | 6 |
| II. | WORK OF THE COMMISSION DURING THE PERIOD 7 MAY 1993 TO 5 MAY 1994 | 4 - 172 | 13 |
| | A. Activities of subsidiary organs | 4 | 13 |
| | B. Other activities | 5 - 160 | 13 |
| | C. Relations with other United Nations programmes | 161 - 172 | 33 |
| III. | TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION AND TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS | 173 - 278 | 35 |
| | A. Attendance and organization of work | 173 - 180 | 35 |
| | B. Agenda | 181 | 36 |
| | C. Account of proceedings | 182 - 278 | 36 |
| IV. | RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND DECLARATIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS AT ITS TWENTIETH MEETING | | 49 |
| V. | FINAL COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS AT ITS TWENTIETH MEETING | | 81 |
| ANNEXES | | | |
| I. | REPORT OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (26 APRIL - 1 MAY 1994) AS ADOPTED BY THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION/TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS | | 85 |
| II. | MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES HELD DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW (7 MAY 1993 - 5 MAY 1994) | | 113 |
| III. | LIST OF DOCUMENTS | | 115 |

## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

| | |
|---|---|
| AACHD | African Advisory Committee for Health Development |
| AAF-SAP | African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation |
| AAPAM | African Association for Public Administration and Management |
| AATPO | Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations |
| ACABQ | Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions |
| ACARTSOD | African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development |
| ACC | Administrative Committee on Coordination |
| ACCIS | Advisory Council on the Coordination of Information Systems |
| ACMAD | African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development |
| ACMS | African Centre for Monetary Studies |
| ACP | African, Caribbean and Pacific Group |
| ADB | African Development Bank |
| AFRAND | African Foundation for Research and Development |
| AFREXIM | African Export-Import Bank |
| AHSCP | African Household Survey Capability Programme |
| AIDF | African Industrial Development Fund |
| AIHTTR | African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research |
| ALO | Arab Labour Organization |
| AfMF | African Monetary Fund |
| AMU | Arab Maghreb Union |
| ANC | African National Congress |
| AOAD | Arab Organization for Agricultural Development |
| AOCRS | African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing |
| APPER | Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery |
| ARCC | Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development |
| ARCEDEM | African Regional Centre for Engineering. Design and Manufacturing |
| ARCSE | African Regional Centre for Solar Energy |
| ARCT | African Regional Centre for Technology |
| ARSO | African Regional Organization for Standardization |
| ASTIS | African Science and Technology Information System |
| ATRCW | African Training and Research Centre for Women |
| BADEA | Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa |
| CADIS | Central African Development Information System |
| CAFRAD | African Centre for Administrative Training and Research for Development |
| CAMRDC | Central African Mineral Resources Development Centre |
| CASD | Committee on African Statistical Development |
| CDP | Committee for Development Planning |
| CEAO | West African Economic Community |
| CEPGL | Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries |
| CEVO | Consortium of Ethiopian Voluntary Organizations |
| CILSS | Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel |
| COMESA | Common market for Eastern and Southern Africa |
| CPC | Committee for Programme and Coordination |
| CRDA | Christian Relief and Development Association |
| CSD | Commission on Sustainable Development |
| DAC | Development Assistance Committee |
| DIESA | Department of International Economic and Social Affairs |
| DPCSD | Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development |
| DTCD | Department of Technical Cooperation for Development |
| EC | European Community |
| ECA | Economic Commission for Africa |
| ECA-MRAG | Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group |
| ECCAS | Economic Community of Central African States |
| ECE | Economic Commission for Europe |

| | |
|---|---|
| **ECLAC** | Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean |
| **ECOSOC** | Economic and Social Council of the United Nations |
| **ECOWAS** | Economic Community of West African States |
| **EDF** | European Development Fund |
| **EDI** | Economic Development Institute of the World Bank |
| **EEZ** | Exclusive economic zone |
| **EIB** | European Investment Bank |
| **ESADIS** | East and Southern African Development Information System |
| **ESAMI** | Eastern and Southern African Management Institute |
| **ESAMRDC** | Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre |
| **EUROSTAT** | Statistical Office of the European Union |
| **FACC** | Federation of African Chambers of Commerce |
| **FAO** | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| **FAVDO** | Forum of African Voluntary Development Organizations |
| **FDI** | Foreign direct investment |
| **FEMNET** | African Women's Development and Communications Network |
| **GATT** | General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade |
| **GCA** | Global Coalition for Africa |
| **GDP** | Gross domestic product |
| **GEF** | Global Environment Facility |
| **IAEA** | International Atomic Energy Agency |
| **IAG** | Inter-Africa Group |
| **ICAO** | International Civil Aviation Organization |
| **ICC** | International Chamber of Commerce |
| **ICIPE** | International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology |
| **ICM** | Intergovernmental Committee for Migration |
| **ICP** | International Comparison Programme |
| **ICPD** | International Conference on Population and Development |
| **ICVA** | International Council of Voluntary Agencies |
| **IDA** | International Development Association |
| **IDB** | Islamic Development Bank |
| **IDDA** | Industrial Development Decade for Africa |
| **IDEP** | African Institute for Economic Development and Planning |
| **IDNDR** | International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction |
| **IDRC** | International Development Research Centre of Canada |
| **IFAD** | International Fund for Agricultural Development |
| **IFORD** | Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques |
| **IGADD** | Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development |
| **IGCESTD** | Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development |
| **IGOs** | Intergovernmental organizations |
| **ILCA** | International Livestock Centre for Africa |
| **ILO** | International Labour Organisation |
| **IMF** | International Monetary Fund |
| **IMO** | International Maritime Organization |
| **INC** | Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee |
| **INSTRAW** | United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women |
| **IOC** | Indian Ocean Commission |
| **IOI** | International Ocean Institute |
| **ITC** | International Trade Centre |
| **ITU** | International Telecommunication Union |
| **JIU** | Joint Inspection Unit |
| **KBO** | Kagera Basin Organization |
| **LAS** | League of Arab States |
| **LCBC** | Lake Chad Basin Commission |
| **LDCs** | Least developed countries |
| **LPA** | Lagos Plan of Action |
| **MULPOC** | Multinational Programming and Operational Centre |
| **NACP** | National Accounts Capability Programme |
| **NADIS** | North African Development Information System |
| **NATCAPs** | National Technical Cooperation Assessments and Programmes |
| **NGOs** | Non-governmental organizations |
| **OAU** | Organization of African Unity |

| | |
|---|---|
| **ODA** | Official development assistance |
| **OECD** | Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development |
| **PADIS** | Pan-African Development Information System |
| **PAID-PTA** | Pan-African Institute for Development of East and Southern Africa |
| **PANA** | Pan-African News Agency |
| **PANAFTEL** | Pan-African Telecommunications Network |
| **PTA** | Preferential Trade Area of Eastern and Southern African States |
| **RANDFORUM** | Research and Development Forum for Science-led Development in Africa |
| **RASCOM** | Regional African Satellite Communications System |
| **RASDS** | Regional Advisory Service in Demographic Statistics |
| **RBA** | Regional Bureau for Africa (UNDP) |
| **RBASEP** | Regional Bureau for Arab States and European Programmes |
| **RCSSMRS** | Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing |
| **RECTAS** | Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys |
| **RIPS** | Regional Institute for Population Studies |
| **SADC** | Southern Africa Development Community |
| **SADCC** | Southern African Development Coordination Conference |
| **SAPs** | Structural adjustment programmes |
| **SAPAM** | Special Action Programme for Administration and Management in Africa |
| **SDI** | Selective Dissemination of Information |
| **STPA** | Statistical Training Programme for Africa |
| **SWMTEP** | System-Wide Medium-Term Environment Programme |
| **TCDC** | Technical cooperation among developing countries |
| **TEPCOW** | Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole |
| **TNCs** | Transnational corporations |
| **TTS** | Technical support teams of the United Nations Population Fund |
| **UDEAC** | Central African Customs and Economic Union |
| **UNAFRI** | United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders |
| **UNCED** | United Nations Conference on Environment and Development |
| **UNCHS** | United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) |
| **UNCSTD** | United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development |
| **UNCTAD** | United Nations Conference on Trade and Development |
| **UNCTC** | United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations |
| **UNDP** | United Nations Development Programme |
| **UNEP** | United Nations Environment Programme |
| **UNESCO** | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| **UNFPA** | United Nations Population Fund |
| **UNHCR** | Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| **UNICEF** | United Nations Children's Fund |
| **UNIDO** | United Nations Industrial Development Organization |
| **UNIFEM** | United Nations Development Fund for Women |
| **UNITAR** | United Nations Institute for Training and Research |
| **UN-NADAF** | United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s |
| **UNSO** | United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office |
| **UNSTAT** | United Nations Statistical Division |
| **UNTACDA** | United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa |
| **UNTFAD** | United Nations Trust Fund for African Development |
| **UNU** | United Nations University |
| **WADIS** | West African Development Information System |
| **WASME** | World Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises |
| **WFC** | World Food Council |
| **WFP** | World Food Programme |
| **WFTU** | World Federation of Trade Unions |
| **WHO** | World Health Organization |
| **WMO** | World Meteorological Organization |
| **WTO** | World Tourism Organization |

## INTRODUCTION

1. The present annual report of the Economic Commission for Africa covers the period 7 May 1993 to 5 May 1994. It has been prepared in accordance with paragraph 18 of the Commission's terms of reference and was adopted by the Commission on 4 May 1994.

## CHAPTER I

### I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. *Matters calling for action by the Council*

2. At the twenty-ninth session of the Commission/twentieth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 2 to 5 May 1994, the Conference of Ministers recommended the following draft resolutions and declarations for adoption by the Council:

*Draft resolution I*

770 (XXIX). *Effective implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF)*

The Conference of Ministers,

Bearing in mind its memorandum to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the United Nations General Assembly on the Final Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD),

Recalling General Assembly resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991 and its annexes on the assessment of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, respectively,

Realizing that while during the period of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 African countries managed to fulfil many of their undertakings, the donor community did not make available the resources which they had promised,

Noting that the first two years of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s have been beset by inadequate resources from the international donor community,

Mindful also of the fact that Africa's social and economic development is primarily the responsibility of African Governments and people, in concert with the international community who have accepted the principle of shared responsibility and full partnership with Africa,

Bearing in mind the reports of the Secretary-General on "Preliminary consideration of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s"[1] on "Need for and feasibility of the establishment of a diversification fund for Africa's commodities"[2] and on "Financial resource flows to Africa"[3] submitted to the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly,

Having considered also the secretariat's report on the implementation of the New Agenda[4] and the document on programme evaluation in the Economic Commission for Africa[5] which includes the progress report on the in-depth evaluation of Programme 45,[6]

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 48/214 of 23 December 1993 on the New Agenda which, inter alia, reiterated the expectations of the New Agenda and the priority attached to it,

1. Notes with appreciation the sustained efforts of the Secretary-General to ensure that Africa's social and economic development remains on the agenda of the international community throughout the 1990s;

2. Reaffirms the commitment of African Governments to the long-term sustainable socio-economic development and growth of the region through the successful implementation of the policies and priorities of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

3. Commends African Governments for their demonstrated commitment to promote economic development by their adoption of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community whose objectives are consistent with those of the New Agenda;

4. Recognizes the importance of the regional dimension in Africa's social and economic development and the potential contributions of the New Agenda in fostering it;

5. Affirms the need to strengthen collaboration between the Organization of African Unity,

the African Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa in undertaking actions to promote the long-term socio-economic development of the region;

6. Notes with appreciation the goodwill of the Government of Japan in convening the International Conference on African Development, at Tokyo on 5 and 6 October 1993, and in the Tokyo Declaration adopted by that Conference;

7. Urges all African Governments to continue to take appropriate policy measures and actions for the sustained socio-economic development and growth of the region;

8. Renews its call to Africa's development partners, including the United Nations agencies, organizations and programmes and the international community at large, to fulfil their commitments to support Africa's efforts, particularly in relation to resource flows to the region, the enhancement of Africa's access to markets and debt relief;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to favourably consider, in the framework of the restructuring of the Secretariat, possible institutional arrangements, including additional resources and other means to significantly strengthen capacity at the Economic Commission for Africa to fulfil its co-ordination, follow-up and monitoring role for the implementation of the New Agenda;

10. Further requests the Executive Secretary to closely monitor the implementation of the New Agenda, especially those aspects related to the mobilization of resources, and to report thereon to the next Conference of Ministers.

*Draft resolution II*

776 (XXIX). *Development and strengthening of the Economic Commission for Africa's programme activities in the field of natural resources, energy and marine affairs*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/197, 33/202, 44/211, 46/235, 47/199 and 48/262 of 20 December 1977, 29 January 1979, 22 December 1989, 13 April 1992, 22 December 1992 and 20 December 1993, Economic and Social Council resolutions 1987/10 and 1989/6 of 26 May 1987 and 22 May 1989 and Commission resolutions 572 (XXI) and 602 (XXII) of 21 April 1986 and 27 April 1987 respectively,

Endorsing the findings and conclusions of self-evaluation of the Commission's subprogrammes concerned with natural resources, energy and marine affairs carried out during the biennium 1992-1993,

Mindful of the regrouping of the above-mentioned sectors in the revised Medium-term Plan 1992-1997 and the relevant programme budget for 1994-1995 into a single subprogramme aimed at enhancing the interrelationships between these sectors to ensure greater programme impact,

Aware of the enhanced significance and strategic importance of the present natural resources subprogramme for sustaining the long-term objectives of the Medium-term Plan, in particular with regard to the economic cooperation and integration of the African continent in the context of the Abuja Treaty, Agenda 21 and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,

Recognizing the urgency involved in strengthening both the substantive and operational capacity of the subprogramme in order to enhance its intended impact within the region,

Noting with concern the continued stagnation of available resources, both regular and extrabudgetary, required to carry out activities in support of regional policies, programmes and projects in order to strengthen the African countries' capacities and capabilities to fully explore, exploit and develop their natural resources,

Highly appreciative of the initiatives taken by the Secretary-General in the context of decentralization to strengthen the regional commission's activities in the area of natural resources development, especially in the fields of mineral resources, water resources, cartography and remote sensing, energy and marine affairs,

Convinced that the current process of decentralization of regular programme activities needs to be supported by a corresponding decentralization of extrabudgetary resources to complement and maximize existing regional capacities,

1. Appeals to all partners in operational activities for African development to give due consideration to the priorities assigned to the development of natural resources within the Economic Commission for Africa's programme of work with a view to funding related project activities;

2. Calls upon member States to facilitate the implementation of the Commission's activities in natural resources development through effective national institutional mechanisms, in particular with regard to the follow-up of its recommendations emanating from the self-evaluation of the relevant subprogrammes featuring marine affairs, mineral resources, water resources, energy and cartography and remote sensing;

3. Further calls upon the Secretary-General within the context of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations

to ensure the effective decentralization of relevant global programmes and activities to the Commission;

4. Requests that an in-depth evaluation of the subprogramme be undertaken during the 1994-1995 biennium;

5. Also requests the Executive Secretary to report on the implementation of this resolution at the next meeting of the Conference of Ministers.

*Draft resolution III*

777 (XXIX). *Enhancing the capacity of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs)*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 311 (XIII) of 1 March 1977 establishing the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs),

Recalling also its resolution 702 (XXV) of 19 May 1990 on transformation and strengthening of the MULPOCs and the pertinent provisions of its resolution 726 (XXVII) of 22 April 1992 on strengthening the Economic Commission for Africa to face Africa's development challenges in the 1990s,

Noting with satisfaction the allocation by the General Assembly through its resolution 46/135 of five additional established professional posts in the MULPOCs,

Noting further with appreciation that the bulk of the additional resources made available under the United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation in 1994-1995 have been redeployed to the MULPOCs with a view to strengthening their capacity to provide advisory services within the subregions,

Considering however, that critical areas remain uncovered by the expertise currently available in the MULPOCs and require additional resources on a sustained basis which cannot be met through the Commission's regional advisory services programme,

Noting also with satisfaction member countries' continuous material support to the MULPOCs in providing, inter alia, office premises free of charge and seconding on a temporary basis national experts to the MULPOCs,

Taking note of the recommendations contained in the draft report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the triennial review of the in-depth evaluation of the programme on development issues and policies of the Commission, and more specifically to sections devoted to the MULPOCs,[7]

Recalling further that the MULPOC budgets for the biennium 1994-1995 were approved with due regard to current budget restraints in the United Nations and pressing priorities of member countries and their intergovernmental organizations,

Reaffirming the validity in the short, medium and long term of the mandate of MULPOCs as spelt out in its resolution 702 (XXV) recalled above and noting MULPOC activities towards the rationalization and harmonization of subregional economic groupings as well as substantive support to the latter in the formulation and implementation of their multisectoral programmes,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the General Assembly for measures already taken to strengthen the MULPOCs' capacity to adequately respond to the needs of their member States and their intergovernmental organizations;

2. Supports efforts being deployed by the Executive Secretary to provide the MULPOCs with the required critical staff and non-staff resources to enhance their effectiveness;

3. Calls upon the General Assembly, within the framework of future budget provisions, to supplement efforts made by the Commission and member States in order to increase, as the sixteenth meeting of the Conference had wished, the human and financial resources of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres.

*Draft resolution IV*

780 (XXIX). *Implementation of the programme for the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1993-2002)*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/177 of 22 December 1992 on the adoption of the programme for the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the call made therein to the African countries and the international community to take concrete steps to ensure the full and successful implementation of the new Decade,

Recalling further resolution GC.4/8 of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on the second Decade which, inter alia, requested the Director-General to provide increased assistance to African countries and their subregional organizations for the implementation of their national and subregional programmes for the second Decade,

Mindful of its resolution 739 (XXVII) of 22 April 1992 requesting the Executive Secretary of the Commission to assist African countries in the implementation of their national and subregional programmes for the second Decade,

Conscious of the crucial role that can be played by the private sector, local entrepreneurship and women in the accelerated development of industrialized countries and newly industrialized countries,

Reaffirming the primary responsibility of the African countries in the implementation of the programme for the second Decade and the need for a substantial flow of technical and financial resources from the international community towards the industrialization of Africa and in particular the implementation of the programme for the new Decade,

Further reaffirming the need for coordination and harmonization of the activities of the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

1. Calls upon all African countries to take concrete policy, institutional and other measures to ensure full implementation of their national and subregional programmes for the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa including the establishment of an enabling environment for the development of the private sector and the attraction of substantial financial and technical resources for investment in the priority areas of the programme for the second Decade;

2. Calls further upon Africa's development partners and development finance institutions particularly the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the Islamic Development Bank, the Arab Bank for the Economic Development of Africa and African subregional banks and funds to allocate substantial resources to the implementation of the programme of the second Decade at the national and subregional levels;

3. Also calls upon African countries which have not yet done so to establish national coordinating committees for the second Decade, take full account of the priorities of the second Decade in policy and programme formulation for the industrial sector including ensuring that such programmes as structural adjustment programmes do not adversely affect the implementation of the programme for the second Decade;

4. Requests the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to take concrete steps to ensure that the programme for the second Decade and in particular, the Coordination Unit for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa is provided with substantially increased human and financial resources to enable it to support more effectively the implementation of the 50 national and four subregional programmes for the second Decade;

5. Adopts the Plan of Action for the harmonization of the implementation of the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, taking into account the recommendations of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning;[8]

6. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission and the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to undertake concrete actions required for the harmonization of the activities of the second Industrial Development Decade and the second Transport and Communications Decade according to the Plan of Action in consultation with the Organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank and other relevant organizations;

7. Further requests the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Executive Secretary of the Commission to accord high priority to the development of the private sector, the participation of women and the utilization of African consultants in their activities related to the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa;

8. Also requests the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to take concrete steps for the promotion of the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa at the international level and the mobilization of financial and technical resources for the new Decade, the implementation of Agenda 21, the review of the implications for African countries' industrialization efforts to the Uruguay Round and the fundamental changes at the international level;

9. Requests further the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to ensure that all opportunities are used to mobilize financial resources for the second Decade programme;

10. Appeals to the General Assembly to allo-cate increased resources to the Commission to enable it to support African countries in their efforts towards the establishment of the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa more effectively, especially the activities of the Committee of Ten at regional, subregional and national level;

11. Requests the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Executive Secretary of the Commission to report jointly on the implementation of the present resolution to the Conference at its next meeting.

*Draft resolution V*

789 (XXIX). *Strengthening information systems for Africa's recovery and sustainable development*

The Conference of Ministers,

Convinced that information support is vital to Africa's recovery and sustainable development,

Concerned by the underdeveloped information and documentation sector in many African countries and the inadequate financial and material resources available for its growth,

Welcoming General Assembly decision 48/453 of 21 December 1993 recommending the provision of adequate staffing and resources for the Economic Commission for Africa subprogramme on information systems development, beginning with the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1992/51 of 31 July 1992 on the need to ground the Commission's activities in sound data and information system and 1993/67 of 30 July 1993 on the Commission's subprogramme in information systems development,

Recalling also its resolutions 716 (XXVI) of 12 May 1991 on implementing an integrated approach to development information and 766 (XXVIII) of 4 May 1993 on strengthening development information systems for regional cooperation and integration in Africa,

Appreciative of the continuing support given by the International Development Research Centre as well as new support from the Government of the Netherlands and the Carnegie Corporation of New York to the Pan-African Development Information System's activities to strengthen the information capabilities of member States,

Appreciative also of the approval of the Council of Ministers of the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of the project "Information Technology for Africa" for further consideration by the European Union in the framework of the Lome IV Convention,

Bearing in mind the need to strengthen the Commission's subregional development information centres as information support for subregional economic cooperation and integration,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts being made by the Commission's development information system in the delivery of technical assistance to member States and the large number of requests pending in this area,

Noting with further satisfaction the full incorporation of the activities on information system development into the programme budget of the Commission,

Noting with concern, however, that the Commission has had regular budget activities in this area since 1984 without resources being provided for them,

Aware of the decreasing availability of extrabudgetary resources for implementation and utilization of development information systems and technology,

Noting with grave concern the precarious financial situation of the Commission's activities in this area to meet the important needs of its member States and the urgency to end its reliance on extrabudgetary sources of funding,

1. Appeals to member States to recognize the vital importance of developing their information sector by:

(a) Adopting national information and informatics policies;

(b) Providing sufficient resources in the national budget for the essential growth of this area;

2. Urges member States to approve the utilization of new technology for electronic communication in order to permit Africa's full access to the global information highway;

3. Further urges member States to formulate their needs for technical assistance in information systems development by:

(a) Giving priority to information systems development in the use of their United Nations Development Programme Country Indicative Planning figures (IPFs), utilizing the Technical Support Services (TSS) mechanism where applicable;

(b) Considering development information activities in their pledges to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development;

(c) Using, where appropriate, the financial provisions under the Lome IV convention for this purpose;

4. Urgently appeals to the European Union to consider favourably the Pan-African Development

Information System project approved by the African, Caribbean and Pacific group Council of Ministers and submitted to it for funding;

5. Calls upon the donor community to support both national initiatives as well as the Commission's activities to strengthen development information capabilities in the Africa region;

6. Approves the outline of the work programme for 1995-1996 in information systems development, while urging the Commission to continue its leadership role in the area of information systems and sciences, information technology, and telematics in order to support Africa's efforts for sustainable development;

7. Encourages the Commission through its information systems development activities to facilitate intra-African information exchange as support for regional economic integration by developing norms and standards, in collaboration with other relevant technical organizations, for information compatibility and promoting their use;

8. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to allocate additional section 20 resources to the subprogramme on statistical and information systems development in accordance with the recommendation of the Second Committee (A/C.2/48/L.50/Rev.1);

9. Also requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to seek additional resources through voluntary contributions for the Commission's subregional development information centres in the framework of the subprogramme on statistical and information systems development;

10. Further requests the General Assembly, within the spirit of decision 48/453 adopted and in view of the importance of development information systems for Africa's development, to authorize the creation of three professional posts at P3, P4 and P5 levels and four local level posts, to permit the delivery of programmed activities of the Commission's subprogramme on information systems development beginning with its 1994-1995 programme budget.

Declaration 1 (XXIX). *Readmission of democratic South Africa into the Commission*

In resolution 974D (XXXVI) of 30 July 1965, ECOSOC had decided that "The Republic of South Africa should not take part in the work of the Commission until the Council, on the recommendation of the Commission, should find that conditions for constructive cooperation had been restored by a change in its racial policy".

In paragraph 10 of declaration 1 (XXIX) adopted by the Commission on 5 May 1994, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to submit a report to ECOSOC in conformity with Council resolution 974D (XXXVI) to recommend the readmission of democratic South Africa into the Commission.

In making this request, the Commission had recognized the radical changes that had taken place in South Africa since February 1990, particularly the dismantling of the system of apartheid, the adoption of a democratic constitution and the holding of the first non-racial general elections. The Commission is, therefore, convinced that conditions for constructive cooperation with South Africa had now been restored.

It accordingly hereby recommended that the Council readmits the Republic of South Africa into the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

### B. *Matters brought to the attention of the Council*

3. The Conference of Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning also adopted the resolutions and decisions summarized below:

771 (XXIX). *Building critical capacities for accelerated growth and sustained development*

The Conference of Ministers endorsed "A Framework Agenda for Building and Utilizing Critical Capacities in Africa: A Preliminary Report" which includes a "Proposed Regional Action Programme of Technical Cooperation in Capacity Building and Utilization in Africa" and which is a preliminary study and consensus framework embracing the key issues in capacity building and institutional development as well as the basis of a more detailed study to be presented at the 1995 meeting of the Conference of Ministers and requested the Executive Secretary to undertake further studies aimed at strengthening the Framework Agenda on the basis of which detailed programmes of action in capacity building at the national, subregional and regional levels may be designed for implementation in the short and medium term.

772 (XXIX). *Preparations for the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements*

The Conference of Ministers endorsed the "Declaration of African Ministers responsible for Human Settlements on the Preparatory Process to the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)", which is a collective strategy for effective African participation in the above process and called upon all member States to effectively participate in the preparatory process of

Habitat II, especially the timely preparation of national reports.

773 (XXIX). *Preparation for the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, Yokohama, Japan, 23-27 May 1994*

The Conference of Ministers adopted the African Common Position for the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction to be held in Yokohama, Japan from 23 to 27 May 1994; urged member States to strengthen cooperation among themselves in fostering the objective and goals of the International Decade, particularly the recommendation of the World Conference and to pursue the African Strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21; and encouraged the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, in particular the Secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, to intensify its efforts in cooperation with all Africa's development partners to support the efforts of member States, particularly within the framework of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, national, subregional and regional research and development institutions, non-governmental organizations to reduce the impact and minimize the effects of natural disasters in Africa.

774 (XXIX). *Strategy and Programme of Action for marine/ocean development in Africa*

The Conference of Ministers called upon all African States to ratify the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and enact laws claiming jurisdiction over maritime zones as provided for in the Convention; establish a coordinating mechanism for marine affairs to be established by respective States; and establish or strengthen their national framework for policy formulation in the realms of food, energy and materials so as to give the needed thrust and emphasis to the rational development and optimal utilization of their marine resources; in particular, the policy framework should accord high priority to marine science and technology and the development of the necessary human and institutional infrastructure.

775 (XXIX). *Establishment of a trust fund for peace-building, post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and development*

The Conference of Ministers called upon all African member States, friendly donor countries and financial and economic institutions to appreciate the difficult post-conflict situations facing the countries and to extend their generous contribution to the establishment of the fund and requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission to institute such mechanisms as are required to ensure the establishment, proper management and utilization of the fund.

778 (XXIX). *The situation in the least developed countries*

The Conference of Ministers noted with concern the worsening socio-economic situation of least developed countries, the majority of which are in Africa and called upon Africa's development partners to intensify their efforts towards the implementation of the Paris Programme of Action in favour of the least developed countries.

779 (XXIX). *Strengthening the operational capacity of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa*

The Conference of Ministers appealed to all bilateral and international partners that currently assist the Commission or intend to do so, in particular member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the League of Arab States and their cooperation agencies to work further at strengthening their cooperation with the Commission by financing its subregional and regional projects and programmes and also made a special appeal to the European Union to facilitate the access of African States and their intergovernmental organizations to those resources reserved for the financing of regional projects.

781 (XXIX). *Development of the private sector for the accelerated implementation of the programme for the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and beyond*

The Conference of Ministers called upon African countries to adopt concrete measures to create and sustain an enabling environment which would foster the development of the private sector and African entrepreneurship including the promotion of the role of women in the industrial development of Africa and requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission and the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to provide African countries with increased support for the development of their private sector.

782 (XXIX). *Development of basic industries for the structural transformation of African economies*

The Conference of Ministers called upon African Governments to mobilize and pool their resources in a collective endeavour to establish and sustain basic industries, especially within the framework of subregional development organizations and economic communities; requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in co-operation with the Director-General of the United

Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the President of the African Development Bank, to undertake the necessary follow-up actions in promoting Africa's basic industries particularly the national and subregional projects contained in the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa programme; and appealed to the donor community to assist African countries to establish basic industries through the provision of financial resources and joint ventures.

783 (XXIX). *The Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations*

The Conference of Ministers adopted the Tunis Declaration on the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations; called upon the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in the framework of the African multilateral trade negotiations, and in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity, to assist African countries to adequately prepare for the evaluation of the results called for in Section Nine of the Punta del Este Ministerial Declaration; and agreed that an international conference should be organized in Tunis, under the auspices of the Commission, in collaboration with the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the International Trade Centre, on technical assistance to African countries, with the aim of enabling the adaptation of their economies to the new international trade environment, and more particularly, to the outcome of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

784 (XXIX). *Africa and the crisis in international commodity agreements*

The Conference of Ministers urged African countries to strengthen their cooperative efforts in negotiations for successor agreements to major international agreements and invited the Common Fund for Commodities, the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant institutions to provide financial and other assistance to help African countries to diversify their economies.

785 (XXIX). *Promotion and expansion of intra-African trade*

The Conference of Ministers called upon African countries to implement measures designed to encourage intra-African trade and subregional groupings to harmonize their investment and trade policies, including the progressive reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers and urged them to transform, as much as possible, their raw materials through processing in order to increase value added to their exports and to explore opportunities for exchange of goods as a way for temporarily alleviating their balance-of-payments difficulties.

786 (XXIX). *Strategies for Revitalization, Recovery and Growth of Africa's Trade in the 1990s and Beyond*

The Conference of Ministers invited the Follow-up Committee to carry out its mandate; requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission to provide to the said Committee the required technical support; and called upon African countries to implement the policies and measures contained in the Strategies.

787 (XXIX). *Science and technology for development*

The Conference of Ministers welcomed its resolution 757 (XXVIII) of 4 May 1993 on the restructuring of the intergovernmental machinery of the Commission which established an African Regional Conference on Science and Technology by upgrading the existing Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Science and Technology Development and requested the Commission, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in collaboration with other relevant agencies, to develop and recommend mechanisms, including science and technology indicators for evaluating the developments in and management of science and technology in the member States.

788 (XXIX). *Establishment of an African Monetary Fund*

The Conference of Ministers reaffirmed its commitment to work towards the effective establishment of the proposed African Monetary Fund and mandated the Executive Secretary of the Commission, the President of the African Development Bank, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Director-General of the African Centre for Monetary Studies to continue with the studies needed to bring the proposed African Monetary Fund into being and to report the progress thereon to the sixth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance.

790 (XXIX). *Capacity building for statistical development in Africa*

The Conference of Ministers urged African Governments to vigorously implement actions to be taken at the national level as recommended in the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s; urged both the multilateral and bilateral donor agencies having interest in capacity building in Africa to provide further support at the national, subregional and regional levels to facilitate the work of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development and

recognize the need to build capacity at the regional level in the Economic Commission for Africa - as the regional organization with a mandate for the promotion of statistical development - is as important as the promotion of capacity at the national level.

791 (XXIX). *Change of name of the African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW) to African Centre for Women (ACW)*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 269 (XII) of 28 February 1975 which endorsed the establishment of an African Training and Research Centre for Women within the Economic Commission for Africa with a view to facilitating the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of women in Africa and enhancing their contribution to the overall development of the continent,

Further recalling subsequent resolutions which recognized the central role of African women in the development of the continent more especially in the rural areas where the majority of the population live,

Considering the increase in women's concerns due to the increasing scarcity of productive resources, the worsening of the physical and socio-economic environment, the spread of destructive wars and conflicts and the feminization of poverty,

Conscious that women constitute a valuable pool of human resources for the socio-economic recovery and development of Africa and that there is need for the regional focal point to facilitate the empowerment of African women for their effective participation in all sectors of development,

Recognizing the importance of reinforcing the role and visibility of African women at all levels particularly in the political and economic spheres and the need to ensure the impact of the beneficiaries development programmes,

Recognizing further with satisfaction the pioneering and key role played by the African Training and Research Centre for Women in raising awareness of policy makers and all development agents on gender issues, in formulation and monitoring of strategies aimed at enhancing the role of African women in development as well as in institutional and capacity building towards total advancement of African women,

Considering the importance of communicating this all-embracing role of the Centre on gender issues through its name,

1. Recommends that the African Training and Research Centre for Women changes its name to "the African Centre for Women" in order to adequately reflect the scope of its activities including monitoring changes in the trends of socio-economic development; ensuring that African women concerns are adequately addressed; and designing and implementing programmes for the advancement of women in line with the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, the Abuja Declaration on Participatory Development: the Role of Women in the 1990s; the System-wide Medium-term Plan on the Advancement of Women and any other relevant policy framework;

2. Requests the African Centre for Women to intensify its working relationship with Government machineries in charge of the advancement of women and to work closely with non-governmental organizations in order to ensure greater impact at the grassroots level in line with the provisions of the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation;

3. Urges member States and the international community to continue to give their full support to the Centre;

4. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to make every effort to strengthen the Centre with a view to enhancing its effectiveness and efficiency as the overall regional structure in charge of the advancement of women in Africa.

792 (XXIX). *An integrated approach to women's empowerment: The Kampala Action Plan on Women and Peace; violation of women's human rights; and women's economic empowerment*

The Conference of Ministers resolved to adopt the Kampala Action Plan on Women and Peace; strongly urged African Governments, non-governmental organizations, women, grass-roots, youth, United Nations agencies and other international organizations to participate actively in the implementation of the Kampala Action Plan by setting aside resources for its implementation and setting up mechanisms for monitoring programmes and activities in this regard on a regular basis; called upon governments to enact laws and other legal instruments that guarantee safety from violence on the individual woman and in families while revising those that might work against this principle; ensure the prosecution of offenders in this context and identify and legislate against cultural practices that reinforce physical and psychological oppression of women; and exhorted member States to take the necessary legislative, monetary and banking measures to facilitate the promotion of women's entrepreneurship at the national, subregional and regional levels.

793 (XXIX). *Strengthening and developing capacities in support of regional seed pathology in Africa*

The Conference of Ministers appealed to member States of the Commission to provide voluntarily financial support for the transformation of the seed pathology test centre in Egypt into a regional centre for Africa; requested the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization to prepare the documentation necessary to mobilize the needed resources for the implementation on a sustainable basis of the project on the regional seed pathology centre; and invited Africa's development partners, in particular the European Union, the United Nations Development Programme, the African Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, as well as bilateral partners, to provide financial support to efforts to create the regional seed pathology centre.

Dec.1 (XXIX). *Revised mandate of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers*

The Conference of Ministers,

Approves the amendments to the terms of reference of the Joint Conference of Planners, Statisticians, Demographers and Information Scientists as follows:

(a) The Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians, Demographers (JCPSD) should be changed to: *Conference of African Planners, Statisticians, Population and Information Specialists (CAPSPIS)*, acting within the framework of the policies and procedures of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Economic Commission for Africa, shall, providing that the Conference takes no action with respect to any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(i) Serve as a forum for examining progress and problems in the fields of African planning, statistics, *population and information science* and take action to ensure their development in the light of the general principles of self-reliance and technical cooperation among countries of the region;

It is suggested that the following paragraph (Ia) should be added:

(ii) *Serve as a forum to exchange experiences and keep abreast of new developments in the areas of planning, statistics, population and information science;*

(iii) Establish arrangements for the improvement of all aspects of methodologies, *norms and standards* and practice in the *four* fields under African conditions;

It is suggested that the following paragraph:

(iv) Coordinate the training programmes for and promote the training of the necessary African personnel in planning, statistics and demography;[9]

be amended to read:

*Review the relevance of regional training programmes to the needs of the countries of the region and promote the training of the necessary African personnel in planning, statistics, population and information science;*

and the following paragraph:

(v) Collaborate with the secretariat in evaluating economic, social, demographic conditions in the region to assist in formulating appropriate strategies and monitoring their implementation;

be amended to read:

*Collaborate with the secretariat in evaluating economic and social conditions in the region, to assist in formulating and monitoring development strategies and programmes*.

(vi) Conduct its operations in collaboration with other relevant bodies and international agencies (no change);

(b) The members of the Conference shall be the government officials in charge of the national planning, statistical and population agencies, *information/documentation institutions* of the member States of the Economic Commission for Africa, or their representatives. Representation of all other Governments and bodies shall follow the same rules as for sessions of the Economic Commission for Africa;

(c) The Conference shall meet once every two years and shall report on its sessions to the

Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa;

(d) Work at sessions of the Conference shall be organized in plenary meetings and in committees. A joint report on plenary and committee meetings shall be agreed on at a final plenary meeting of each session of the Conference;

(e) At the beginning of each session, the Conference shall elect a *Chairperson*, two Vice-Chair*persons* and a Rapporteur. At the beginning of its meeting each committee shall appoint its Chair*person*, a Vice-Chairperson and a Rapporteur;

(f) Member States and agencies shall bear the cost of their attendance at the sessions of the Conference;

(g) Except as provided for herein, the Rules of Procedure of the Economic Commission for Africa shall, where relevant, apply to the sessions of the Conference.

Dec. 2 (XXIX). *Programme of work of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), 1994-1996*

The Conference of Ministers approved the programme of work and budget (1994-1996) for the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development.

DCL.1 (XXIX). *Declaration on the reintegration of new democratic South Africa into Africa*

We, the African Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning, meeting in the twenty-ninth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa/twentieth meeting of the Conference of Ministers from 2 to 5 May 1994 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, declare as follows:

We recall that South Africa was one of the founding member States of the Economic Commission for Africa and that by Economic and Social Council resolution 974D (XXXVI) of July 1965 was excluded from the work of the Commission until such time as it abandoned its racial policies. We welcome the radical changes that have taken place in South Africa since February 1990, particularly the dismantling of the system of apartheid, the adoption of a democratic constitution and the holding of the first non-racial general elections. We call upon the international community and the multilateral financial and development institutions to lend their support to South Africa and to provide assistance as may be requested by the new South African government. We request the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to submit a report to ECOSOC in conformity with its resolution 974D (XXXVI) of 30 July 1965 to recommend a re-admission of a democratic South Africa into the Commission.

DCL.2 (XXIX). *Declaration on a human development plan of action for Africa*

We, the African Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning, meeting in Addis Ababa from 2 to 5 May 1994, are deeply concerned that in spite of all the commitments made and the actions taken by African Governments and people, the human and social situation in Africa continues to deteriorate to the extent that much of the gains made earlier in human well-being have now been reversed. These deteriorating conditions are further compounding our problems of building and strengthening development capacity in the region which are manifest in the inadequacy of skills and knowledge to rapidly create capital and technology; the weak and deteriorating physical infrastructure which has negatively affected the smooth functioning of the State, society and economy, etc.

We are aware that although Africa's development will be brought about only through the hard work and determination of the Africans themselves, the international community also has an important role to play. Therefore, our efforts must be complemented by the concerted action and unflinching support of their development partners - bilateral and multilateral agencies, international NGOs and others. To this end, and as a first step, official development assistance (ODA) in support of human development should increase from its present level of 7 per cent to at least 20 per cent towards building and strengthening human capacity in Africa. We request the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to prepare for us a "Human Development Plan of Action for Africa" in cooperation with the members of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Human Development in Africa.

1. United Nations, A/48/334.

2. United Nations, A/48/335, annex, and Add.1 and 2.

3. United Nations, A/48/336 and Corr.1.

4. E/ECA/CM.20/3.

5. E/ECA/CM.20/27.

6. E/ECA/CM.20/27/Add.1.

7. E/ECA/CM.27/Add.2.

8. Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.93/89.

9. This includes the functions requested in the statutes of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) which shall be exercised by the Committee of Planners established in paragraph 4 of the terms of reference.

## CHAPTER II

## WORK OF THE COMMISSION DURING THE PERIOD 7 MAY 1993 TO 5 MAY 1994

### A. *Activities of subsidiary organs*

4. The list of meetings of subsidiary organs held during the period under review is contained in annex II of this report.

### B. *Other activities*

5. During the period under review, the activities of the Commission continued to address issues of sustainable African economic recovery, development and cooperation as approved in the Commission's programme of work and priorities, as well as those implemented in accordance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and the Conference of Ministers. The activities specifically focused on the promotion of reform measures advocated in the major regionally agreed development policy and strategy frameworks such as the Lagos Plan of Action (LPA), the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF), the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP) and the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community.

6. Implementation of activities covered in this report fall between two programming cycles (1992-1993 and 1994-1995). The 1992-1993 biennium was characterized by extensive self-reflection on ways of further enhancing the effectiveness of the Commission's role in development thinking and action. A key outcome was a significantly revised programme organized around nine subprogrammes instead of twenty-one in line with the revised 1992-1997 Medium-term Plan.

7. Activities undertaken covered a wide range of issues and concerns spanning a broad spectrum of areas and included macro and micro development issues and policies; human resources development and utilization; information systems development; economic cooperation and integration; agriculture and rural development; marine affairs; the special problems of the least developed, land-locked and island countries; public adminstration and fiscal affairs; social development; women in development; environment and development; human settlements; industrial development; trade development and cooperation; the external debt crisis; monetary and financial policies and strategies; natural resources; energy, including new and renewable sources of energy; science and technology for development; population; transport and communications; tourism; and statistical development.

8. The activities covering the period under review are outlined below.

*Development research and planning, including the special problems of the least developed, land-locked and island countries*

9. Activities relating to development research and planning aimed, inter alia, at improving national mechanisms for review and appraisal of socio-economic conditions, appraisal of development policies and programmes, as well as methods for improving and upgrading planning machinery and building the appropriate capabilities in planning and economic modelling for the formulation of economic strategies and policies within coherent and consistent national development plans.

10. In the area of surveys, the activities carried out included:

(a) The preparation and publication of the annual survey analyzing the economic situation of the African countries, the structure of GDP and development in the major economic sectors, in particular; development policy analysis, assessment of trade and balance of payments, debt and general forecasts for the region as a whole and its main subregions;

(b) The preparation and publication of the Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa for 1992-1993; and

(c) The preparation and publication of the Economic Report on Africa for 1994, analyzing the current socio-economic events in the region, including problems faced during the period, the main developments in the key sectors of the economies and their implications for growth and development.

11. Activities in economic modelling and forecasting included the preparation of a report on the development and implementation of ECA short-term forecasting models and the status and practices of economic modelling in Africa, with particular reference to the Congo, Guinea and Benin.

12. In the area of economic integration, the secretariat prepared a study which examined the production base and trade structures of CEPGL countries and in particular analyzed areas of complementarities in primary and industry sectors as well as potential trade diversification required for promoting subregional cooperation in the context of the African common market.

13. The secretariat also undertook a research study on strategic planning of the food sector in the African economies.

14. A major activity in the area of social policy and development was the preparation of a study on Implications of differential access to education among males and females in Africa: An agenda for the 1990s. This study addressed the issue of differential (including gender and make-up) access to education in Africa and the implication of this to the development process.

15. Most of the research work of the secretariat was translated into reports and publications, which included the following:

(a) Technical publication on trade liberalization in African countries in the context of stabilization and structural adjustment programmes (SAPs);

(b) Technical publication entitled "The African debt crisis: Policy challenges and prospects for the 1990s"; and

(c) Assessment of policy constraints in the implementation of health for all by the year 2000 in Africa.

16. Independent research by African scholars, under the auspices of the secretariat, resulted in the following research papers:

(a) Nigeria's debt crisis;

(b) Growth performance of Africa: Further evidence of the external shocks versus domestic policy;

(c) *Les déterminants de l'investissement privé dans la sous-région des pays des Grands Lacs* (CEPGL); and

(d) Implication of alternative macroeconomic policy responses to external shocks on Africa.

17. Activities in favour of the African least developed, island and land-locked countries included:

(a) The preparation of the annual Survey of Economic and Social Conditions, analyzing the structure of GDP and development of the major economic sectors;

(b) Preparation of a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action: evaluating the extent to which the Programme diverged from or converged on what was agreed in the Paris Declaration;

(c) Preparation and presentation of reports to the Preparatory Committee for the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and attendance at two meetings convened in New York, from 30 August to 10 September 1993 and from 7 to 11 March 1994 respectively.

18. Other activities during the period included:

(a) Organization of an ad hoc expert group meeting on the revitalization of investment for Africa's development: Prospects in the 1990s and beyond, in Addis Ababa, from 29 November to 1 December 1993;

(b) Installation and demonstration of the SAM-based short-term forecasting model in the Congo; and

(c) Provision of technical assistance to Cameroonian planning specialists on economic forecasting systems within the context of improving short- and medium-term planning for crisis management and SAPs with transformation.

*Human resources and social development*

19. The secretariat's activities in human resources and social development continued to focus on building the capacity of governmental and non-governmental institutions to enable them to handle human resources and social development concerns.

20. Activities in the area of human resources planning, development and utilization centred on the integration of manpower and employment policies in long-term national development planning; enhancement of the informal sector, promotion of popular participation and curriculum development and evaluation.

21. In particular, the secretariat organized and serviced the first meeting of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Human Development which was held in Addis Ababa from 17 to 21 January 1994. The meeting deliberated on and adopted an African Common Position on Human and Social Development in Africa which was presented to the Preparatory Committee on the World Summit for Social Development held in New York from 31 January to 11 February 1994.

22. The major thrust of the secretariat's capacity-building initiative was in the exchange of information and ideas for the upgrading and strengthening of professional knowledge, skills and attitudes of officials engaged in employment planning and productivity enhancement strategies. This was accomplished through a series of workshops, symposia, seminars and ad hoc expert group meetings at which participants collectively reflected on key issues, examined options for dealing with problems

and identified measures for resolving these problems.

23. The following are the workshops, seminars, symposia and meetings organized during the period:

(a) A symposium on "From conflict to concord: Regional cooperation in the Horn of Africa" organized in collaboration with the United States Institute of Peace was held in Addis Ababa from 8 to 12 July 1993. The symposium took the form of both an academic conference and policy forum at which the 150 participants in the symposium deliberated on four central themes: the social and cultural content of the conflict in the Horn of Africa; lessons of political history; the economic and human dimensions of reconstruction and development; and international support for regional cooperation in the Horn of Africa;

(b) A national workshop on the theme "Enhancing dialogue, cooperation and interface between the Government and popular development organizations in Namibia, was organized in Windhoek from 11 to 13 August 1993 within the framework of the "popular participation in development" project;

(c) A national workshop on "Creating an enabling environment for the informal sector in Ethiopia", was held in Addis Ababa from 12 to 14 October 1993;

(d) A global NGO forum on "Building sustainable societies: The role of NGOs in emergencies and social development", organized in collaboration with the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), the Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA), the Consortium of Ethiopian Voluntary Organizations (CEVO) and the Inter-Africa Group (IAG), took place in Addis Ababa from 14 to 17 March 1994.

24. The secretariat's technical publications in the area of human resources planning, development and utilization were essentially based on research studies aimed at providing the basis for policy making; improving employment planning and productivity enhancement; training of indigenous manpower for accelerating transfer of skills and knowledge in priority areas; curriculum development and evaluation; and strengthening institutional capacity in member States.

25. In this regard, research was carried out on the following topical issues:

(a) Status, policies and programmes on human resources development and utilization in Africa;

(b) Evaluation of the impact of structural adjustment programmes on the effective utilization of human resources;

(c) Strategies for increasing effectiveness of human resources in priority sectors for socio-economic development;

(d) Refinement of human development indicators for use in planning by African countries;

(e) Measures for solving educated and graduate unemployment in African countries;

(f) Programme of exchange of high-level manpower in Africa;

(g) The role of Africa's institutions of higher learning in economic integration to meet the challenges of the 1990s;

(h) Problems, constraints and methods of identifying alternative sources of financing higher education in Africa;

(i) Africa's development strategies and their implications for education;

(j) Analysis of past attempts towards curriculum reform;

(k) The way forward in curriculum development for socio-economic transformation in Africa;

(l) Curriculum development for promoting self-confidence in Africa;

(m) Assessment of confidence-building factors in school curricula;

(n) Attitude formation and curriculum development;

(o) Status and requirements for training programmes and organizational development policies for university staff;

(p) Non-formal education and training;

(q) Trends and issues in African education and guidelines in the preparation of manpower profiles and identification of training needs;

(r) Problems and constraints on productivity in agriculture;

(s) Planning, development and utilization of human resources for industrial development; and

(t) Measures for employment generation and stimulation of growth in the urban informal and women workers in the rural areas.

26. In assisting African Governments to tackle their problem of skilled manpower shortages and trained manpower, the secretariat identified job vacancies and secured positions and training opportunities for Africans in fields that are critical to the

development of their countries. The details were compiled, on a regular basis, into publications, namely Job Vacancies in Africa; African Experts Available for Recruitment; and Training Information Notice.

27. During the period under review, activities in the area of social development focused on issues concerning youth, family, disabled and ageing persons and crime. Initiatives in these areas included research which was translated into reports and publications, organization of meetings and the provision of substantive support to subregional and regional programmes.

28. Reports and publications reviewing existing policies on social issues, services and programmes for the promotion of social awareness and transformation were prepared. These included the following:

(a) A report on "The role and contribution of youth to the conservation of the African environment";

(b) Directory of Youth Organizations;

(c) A publication entitled "Equal Time", in which a number of activities undertaken by and for disabled persons were highlighted; and

(d) A report on the "The administration of juvenile justice in Eastern and Southern Africa".

29. The secretariat actively participated in the Preparatory Meeting on Youth and Development, organized in collaboration with OAU in Cotonou, Benin on 19 and 20 August 1993.

30. Among the significant initiatives addressed by the secretariat in support of the family was the convening of the ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on the Impact of Economic and Social Changes on the African Family, in Addis Ababa from 13 to 17 December 1993, whose objectives were to prepare and observe the International Year of the Family and to develop long-term strategies and programmes in support of African families.

31. In the field of ageing, the secretariat undertook a study on "The social and economic situation of the ageing in Africa" to establish whether or not African countries had policies and programmes specifically directed at the ageing population.

32. The secretariat continued to provide technical and substantive support to the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI). It also participated actively in the fourth meeting of the Governing Board of UNAFRI held in Kampala on 22 and 23 November 1993.

33. In addition, the secretariat made contributions to the Joint Meeting of the African Ministers of Interior and Justice, held in Uganda on 14 and 15 February 1994, simultaneously with the Regional Preparatory Meeting.

*Information systems development*

34. The secretariat made a number of interventions during the period in assisting member States to improve their information infrastructure to adequately serve as support for development planning and management.

35. In order to assist in the building of necessary infrastructure in this area, the ECA Pan-African Development Information System (PADIS) undertook the following:

(a) Advisory services mission to PADIS national participating centre for improving ongoing information systems and services, Dakar, from 23 to 27 May 1993;

(b) Training in MINISIS bibliographic database management software for Ministry of Mines and Geological Survey, Ethiopia, from 24 May to 6 June 1994;

(c) Training course in MINISIS software and database management for the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) Bamako, from 5 to 25 June 1993; and

(d) Delivery of a training course on information management methodologies and the use of micro-CDS/ISIS software in Algeria, from 16 to 29 June 1993.

36. In the context of assisting member States, subregional and regional organizations in developing their scientific and technological information systems, PADIS served as a resource person at the workshop on scientific and technological information systems, held in Dakar from 25 to 29 May 1993.

37. Other activities for the promotion of information infrastructure development in the African region included the organization of African Development Information Day, celebrated throughout the continent on 19 November 1993, and the convening of the Information Committee of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians, Demographers and Information Scientists, in Addis Ababa from 21 to 26 March 1994.

38. In strengthening the information base for intra-African and other forms of trade, ECA provided a resource person for the IDRC subregional seminar on trade information for the benefit of Chambers of Commerce in East and Southern Africa, held in Nairobi from 15 to 20 September

1993 by delivering a series of lectures on the development of a trade information system.

39. In expanding the availability of information for planning, the following databases were maintained and publications produced:

(a) Database on social and economic, scientific and technical aspects of development in Africa;

(b) Database on African experts in social and economic, scientific and technical aspects of development in Africa; and

(c) Four issues, in English and French, of the quarterly newsletter on information management and information technology in Africa.

40. In order to assist African countries develop the necessary norms and standards of information management required for facilitating information interchange, a series of meetings and workshops were organized. These included:

(a) Subregional workshop on norms, standards and methodologies, Niamey, from 4 to 8 October 1993;

(b) Expert meeting on norms standards and methodologies, Maseru, from 29 November to 2 December 1993.

41. Assistance was provided to member countries in developing their infrastructure for electronic communication through the following training courses on e-mail and computer-mediated communications:

(a) Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, 15-18 October, 1993;

(b) Addis Ababa NGOs and international organizations workshop, Addis Ababa, 23-25 November 1993;

(c) Ethiopian national workshop for communication in Government offices, Addis Ababa, 6-8 December 1993;

(d) West African universities workshop, Accra, 15-17 December 1993;

(e) Non-governmental organizations in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, 25 February 1994;

(f) Demonstration workshop For Ministry of Mines and Geological Survey, Addis Ababa, 15 March 1994.

42. Additional assistance in the field of electronic communication was the installation of a ground station in Ethiopia on the SatelLife HealthNet network.

43. The secretariat also undertook feasibility and needs' assessment missions on electronic networking to Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Kenya, Mozambique, Lesotho, Namibia, Senegal, Swaziland, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

44. In enhancing member States' capabilities to utilize information technology as a tool for information management and development, the secretariat organized the following:

(a) Regional workshop on information technologies for development, Nairobi, from 5 to 9 July 1993;

(b) Expert group meeting on informatics policy studies in Africa, Addis Ababa from 14 to 16 August 1993, to initiate a series of 10 studies on informatics policy tools.

45. The secretariat also delivered two advisory services missions, as follows:

(a) To Ethiopia, for automation of the Prime Minister's Office, August-September 1993;

(b) To Ethiopian Television, on automation and computerization, October 1993.

*Economic cooperation and integration*

46. The secretariat, in concert with the MULPOCs, undertook activities primarily aimed at making the process of economic integration in Africa more operational by, inter alia, strengthening the intergovernmental organizations and institutions in order to make them effective instruments for economic cooperation and integration in Africa. To this end, the Economic Cooperation Office and the MULPOCs combined their efforts in assisting subregional economic grouping such as ECOWAS and CEAO in West Africa, ECCAS, UDEAC and CEPGL in Central Africa and PTA and SADC in Southern and Eastern Africa to coordinate, harmonize and rationalize their respective programmes. A number of studies at sectoral and global levels were prepared in each respect.

47. The MULPOCs organized the meetings of the Intergovernmental Committees of Experts for each subregion which reviewed the progress made in economic cooperation and integration at subregional level. In addition, the Lusaka- and Niamey-based MULPOCs serviced the meeting of the Southern African Labour Commission and that of the Association of West African IGOs respectively.

48. Two important meetings were organized at the regional level: the meeting of Chief Executives of African IGOs and the meeting of Chief Executives of ECA-sponsored institutions. The first considered system-wide proposals for the implementation of the Abuja Treaty, whereas the latter examined

concrete proposals on merging and streamlining activities of ECA-sponsored institutions in order to make them more efficient and effective instruments of economic integration at regional level.

49. The thirteenth edition of the Bulletin of ECA-sponsored Institutions was also published and circulated to all concerned.

50. The Economic Cooperation Office was also deeply involved in the work of the Joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat aimed at promoting the implementation of the Abuja Treaty, through participation in studies and servicing of the meeting of chief executives of OAU, ECA and ADB.

*Agriculture and rural development*

51. During the period under review, the secretariat, jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization, carried out a number of activities. These are summarized under the following broad headings: food and agricultural development policy, planning and programming; agricultural production, institutions and services; agricultural marketing; rural transformation and development; and fisheries and living resources.

52. In the area of food and agricultural development policy, planning and programming activities comprising technical publications and training workshop were implemented.

53. Technical publications underscoring policy measures, strategies and requirements for a sustainable agricultural development were prepared. The details are as follows:

(a) The evaluation and monitoring of the impact on African agriculture of the 1992 European economic integration measures;

(b) Appraisal, monitoring and evaluation of the impact of bio-technology on agricultural development;

(c) Measures to increase the operational effectiveness of planning and policy-making institutions in agricultural development;

(d) Approaches to improve agricultural data collection, processing and interpretation for the benefit of member States in the Eastern and Southern African subregion; and

(e) Measures for the promotion, rehabilitation and conservation of green belts and/or soils in the North African subregion.

54. A workshop on the improvement of public sector capacities in project management and administration which sought to enhance the capabilities of agricultural development planners and policy makers in project management and administration was organized.

55. In the domain of agricultural marketing, efforts were centred on the analysis and diagnosis of agricultural marketing problems and the proffering of solutions. In this regard, the secretariat's work was directed mainly towards research of which studies on the following were carried out:

(a) The improvement of agricultural development policies through a comparative analysis of the structural advantages of agricultural export-oriented products of Africa and South-East Asia;

(b) Measures for alleviating infrastructural constraints to intra-regional food trade, whose findings and conclusions were presented in a report to the meetings of the Intergovernmental Committees of Experts of the MULPOCs;

(c) Identification of appropriate intervention policies and measures for enhancing the access by small farmers to credit facilities; and

(d) A study on the review and assessment of small farmer credit programmes in Africa in the light of the experiences of other developing regions.

56. Capacity building was also an area to which the secretariat attached tremendous importance. In this connection, two outputs were implemented, namely the development of a curriculum for the training of agricultural marketing instructors in agricultural marketing extension services and a curriculum for the training of agricultural marketing instructors in basic marketing principles.

57. Activities undertaken in the areas of agricultural production, institutions and services focused mainly on sustainable food security and poverty alleviation. The specific activities carried out pertained to better understanding of the food security situation in Africa; the preparation of outlooks; development of tools for programming and promotion of comprehensive food security programmes; improvement of member States' capacities in food security policy analysis; development of information base notably through networking for maize and non-conventional food resources.

58. During the period under review, the secretariat organized four meetings for the Central and West African States. The specific purpose of the meetings was to provide a forum for the countries to exchange views on critical food security issues and to make action-oriented recommendations.

59. Given that non-traditional food commodities can also serve as a basis for promoting food security, the secretariat produced a manual for the benefit of member countries on measures designed to expand food availability through the exploitation

of non-conventional food resources (flora and fauna).

60. The secretariat's activity in the area of livestock resources development in Africa consisted of research and the testing of livestock models in Central and West African subregions. The ultimate objective of these models was to develop analytical tools which may rationalize planning and management intervention measures leading to sustainable growth in the livestock subsector.

61. A number of activities in the area of rural structural transformation and development were carried out during the period. These included participation in seminars and preparation of basic documents related to the development of rural life, particularly the life of the poorest group of the population.

62. The following reports were produced:

(a) A report on the strengthening of financial institutions for rural Africa on the provision of credit for agricultural and other income-generating activities in selected African countries; and

(b) One issue of "Rural Progress" focusing on different problems of rural development.

63. The secretariat embarked upon a major field project aimed at promoting massive rehabilitation and development of agriculture in the Tigray region of Ethiopia.

64. Another activity undertaken pertained to the servicing of a seminar on the state of world poverty in Nairobi in June 1993 at which a report entitled "ECA and poverty alleviation in sub-Saharan Africa" was presented.

65. An in-depth study on the dimensions of privatization of land resources in Africa, drawing heavily on case studies from field experience of East African countries and on attempts to critically assess land tenure systems in the subregion, particularly in relation to efficient land-use planning and investment programmes, is under implementation.

66. In the areas of fisheries and marine living resources, a significant number of activities were carried out. These pertained to:

(a) Documentation of relevant fisheries-related issues, including reports, publication and databases. These were:

(i) Elaboration of a subregional maritime data bank in the member States of the Indian Ocean Commission;

(ii) Publication on measures for strengthening cooperation for the exploitation and management of shared inland fisheries resources in Africa for agricultural development officials;

(iii) Report on trends in food security and food self-sufficiency in Africa discussed at the ECA Conference of Ministers in May 1994;

(iv) Elaboration of aquaculture development strategies in the various subregions of the continent;

(v) Publication on the enhancement of capacities for the updating and treatment of data (in particular statistical data) in the fields of agriculture and fisheries;

(vi) Preparation of a basic document on a proposed strategy for developing the fisheries sector as a basis for harmonizing and coordinating related activities in the sector;

(vii) Preparation of a technical publication on measures for strengthening cooperation in the exploitation and management of shared fisheries resources (Zambezi basin: Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe);

(viii) Preparation of a technical publication on subregional cooperation in effective implementation of exclusive economic zones (EEZ) in the fields of fisheries resources (Mozambique and Madagascar);

(ix) Preparation of a monograph on the survey of aquaculture development in selected African countries including the analysis of conditions of development, lessons to be learnt and relevant recommendations with a focus on traditional aquaculture and development of industrial export-oriented aquaculture; and

(j) Preparation of two documents on the present status of agriculture and fisheries in Africa and on situational analysis with regard to fisheries activities in Africa;

(b) Organization of seminars/training/-workshops as follows:

(i) Seminar on a study relating to the analysis and review of the aquaculture sector in Africa;

(ii) National seminar on fisheries policy and strategy in Ethiopia;

(c) Provision of the following technical assistance:

(i) Advisory services on fisheries-related issues for the post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation of affected African countries such as Mozambique.

(ii) A fact-finding mission to Eritrea to follow-up on previous activities regarding the formulation of a master plan for the rehabilitation, reconstruction and development of the country.

67. Other activities performed included cooperation with subregional organizations on the exploitation of fisheries resources within the countries' EEZs, including a review of the existing fishing agreements and participation in the working group of the EEC project on development of lake fisheries in Ethiopia.

*Marine affairs*

68. During the period under review, activities in the marine affairs area were primarily to provide advisory services on application of legal mechanisms established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea for exploitation of non-living resources of the sea. The secretariat fielded missions to 10 African member States, namely Cape Verde, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia and the United Republic of Tanzania.

69. A technical study on current status of awareness, ratification and progress in the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was published in 1994 and a summary of the findings of the study was presented at a regional seminar in March 1994.

70. In March 1994, the secretariat, in collaboration with the International Ocean Institute (IOI), convened and serviced a regional leadership seminar on marine/ocean affairs in Africa in Addis Ababa, whose objectives, inter alia, were to provide a forum for dialogue among African sectoral leaders on the need to promote sustainable development of marine/ocean resources in Africa.

*Public adminstration and fiscal affairs*

71. The bulk of the secretariat's work in public administration and fiscal affairs was on research to identify weaknesses in the operations of public institutions, including policy options and measures for enhancing their role in the development process. The following studies were undertaken during the period:

(a) "Improving government financial reporting systems in selected African countries: A country case study of Tanzania", assessing the government reporting systems and practices in the United Republic of Tanzania;

(b) "Ways and means of mobilizing tax revenues from the informal sector in selected African countries", in which the role of the informal sector was examined and measures on how to mobilize tax revenue from the informal sector were reviewed;

(c) "Reforming of taxation policies, systems and improvement in tax administration: The case of Ethiopia";

(d) "The impact of automation and modern technology on efficiency and effectiveness of financial management in public enterprises in Africa"; and

(e) "Fiscal policies in the agricultural sector: Review of issues and policy options for increased food self-sufficiency in Kenya and Tanzania".

72. Due attention was given to other allied issues such as need for improvements in legal and regulatory constraints to private sector development; developing and strengthening credit and capital markets for private sector development; and fiscal policies for promoting indigenous private sector investment. In developing a better understanding of the issues surrounding these concerns, the secretariat carried out research on themes such as assessment of the performance of reformed public and recently privatized enterprises in Africa; developing African capital markets: The human resource and training challenge; measures for the stimulation, development and promotion of indigenous entrepreneurial capability in Africa; and various approaches to privatization in Africa.

73. A directory of institutions in Africa offering management education and training is being compiled by the secretariat. Information on the role of African professional associations in providing management development and supportive services will also be compiled into a technical publication.

*Environment and development*

74. Activities in environment and development during the period under review focused on developing common interpretations, strategies and action programme on the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in June 1992 and which

adopted Agenda 21, as well as the implementation of the recommendations of the Conference.

75. Coordination with African regional and sub-regional intergovernmental organizations represented a significant component of the secretariat's activities on environmental matters. In this respect, the secretariat carried out regular consultations with OAU on the UNCED follow-up and the promotion of the African Common Position during the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of OAU in June 1993. Cooperation with OAU also included inputs into the development of an African perspective on the International Convention to Combat Desertification and preparation of the Regional Position for Africa for the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in Yokohama, Japan, in May 1994.

76. Coordination with IGADD, SADCC, PTA and ECOWAS also received adequate attention. The secretariat participated in coordinating the desertification component of the UNDP assistance project to ECOWAS, the joint servicing of an IGADD expert group meeting on the International Convention to Combat Desertification, held in Addis Ababa, from 5 to 8 August 1993 and the joint servicing of the tenth session of the Council of Ministers and fourth summit of Heads of State of IGADD, also held in Addis Ababa on 2 and 3 and 6 and 7 September 1993 respectively.

*Human settlements*

77. The specific problems and activities addressed during the period under review were on redressing the rural/urban imbalance through identifying settlement policy issues and developing and promoting guidelines for the formulation and implementation of national settlements policies aimed at balanced spatial distribution of population and economic activities within the context of a sound environment along with land reforms and the promotion of rural townships; strengthening the indigenous construction sector through the development of indigenous skills, low-cost building materials and small-scale production units and transfer of appropriate technology.

78. In this respect, a number of publications covering a variety of human settlements issues were produced, namely:

(a) Bulletin on Human Settlements Situation in Africa;

(b) Physical planning methodologies and techniques applicable to arid and semi-arid areas as well as coastal and tropical forest zones, particularly with regard to environmental protection and development;

(c) Formulation of efficient land-use planning within the framework of the urban economy; and

(d) Guidelines on shelter indicators for the formulation and the assessment of national shelter policies in Africa within the framework of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

79. The secretariat continued its efforts towards the development of local building materials and has within the period under review put into operation pilot plants for the commercial manufacture of stabilized soil blocks in Senegal and fibre concrete roofing tiles in Cameroon and Guinea. Two lime kilns are under construction in Uganda. In addition, the regional project would be expected to provide avenues for full-scale demonstration of the process of technology transfer and better opportunities for the coordination of the efforts of individual countries in training technicians, artisans and entrepreneurs for the widespread production of alternative building materials.

*Industrial development*

80. The thrust of activities carried out during the period under review was on research studies aimed at assisting member countries to formulate appropriate industrial policies and to more effectively implement industrial programmes that would bring about the revitalization and restructuring of the industrial sector and promote industrial programmes and projects by supporting national and multinational resource-based core industries (chemical, engineering, metallurgical, agro-based and small scale) as well as private industrial enterprises. In the context of the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, emphasis was put on the mobilization of financial resources for industrial investment and development of critical capabilities for industrialization in Africa.

81. The secretariat jointly organized with UNIDO the eleventh meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, in close cooperation with the Government of Mauritius and in consultation with OAU, which took place in Port Louis from 31 May to 3 June 1993. It was preceded by the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Whole on Industrialization in Africa which was held from 24 to 29 May 1993. The major outcome from this meeting was the adoption of resolutions and the Mauritius Declaration underscoring the importance of the private sector and natural resource-based core industries in the self-reliant and self-sustained development of Africa.

82. A number of technical publications intended to assist member countries in their efforts to promote the industrial private sector and develop natural resource-based core industries which are engines of economic growth and development, particularly within the context of the IDDA II programme were prepared as follows:

(a) The annual bulletin "Focus on African Industry;"

(b) Directory of project profiles on small-scale industries;

(c) Investment and financial policies and their impact on the development of indigenous industries;

(d) Lessons from selected newly industrialized countries for the effective implementation of IDDA II;

(e) Natural resources for the production of nitrogen, phosphate and potash fertilizers in Africa, their utilization and perspectives for their integrated development in the context of IDDA II;

(f) Possibility for the application of the compact mini-plants technology for the manufacturing of steel products in African countries in the context of IDDA II; and

(g) A technical handbook on composite and non-wheat flours in the context of IDDA II.

83. During the period under review, two ad hoc expert group meetings - one on the promotion of investment in the industrial projects in the context of IDDA II and the other on the possibility of production of basic chemicals from natural gas - were organized with a view to finalizing two technical publications using the experience of African experts in the fields of investment promotion and chemicals.

84. In addition, three subregional follow-up meetings on the implementation of the subregional programmes for IDDA II (one each for West Africa, North Africa and Eastern and Southern Africa) were jointly organized with UNIDO and in collaboration with the host Governments of Côte d'Ivoire, Tunisia and Ethiopia. These meetings assessed and analyzed the subregional and country industrial priorities with a view to making concrete and implementable proposals.

85. Within the framework of the implementation of IDDA II, consultants assisted member countries in promoting 11 selected subregional projects in the priority areas of metal, chemical, engineering and agro-industries. In doing so, each consultant, inter alia, assessed the status of projects selected in each subregion and provided technical advice on their implementation.

86. The secretariat intensified its cooperation with OAU and ADB, particularly within the context of the Joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat through the joint organization of and in cooperation with the South Center, a seminar on the Report of the South Commission, held in Addis Ababa on 15 and 16 September 1993. The theme of the seminar was on policy options for Africa in the 1990s in the light of the South Commission Report and recent global development strategies.

87. In addition, the Joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat met in Cairo from 5 to 7 December 1993 to finalize the draft agenda for the sixth consultative meeting of the chief executives and to discuss the implementation of the Abuja Treaty, the privatization and the role of the private sector in Africa and intra-African trade, including the role of the AFREXIMBANK.

88. The secretariat provided substantive support and logistics to the seventh International Conference on Small and Medium Enterprises jointly organized by Ethiopia and the World Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises (WASME) in Addis Ababa from 9 to 11 March 1994 concurrently with an international trade fair which opened officially on 6 March 1994.

*Trade development and cooperation*

89. The secretariat's activities in the area of trade development and cooperation aimed at assisting member States in designing, adopting and implementing policies and measures consisting of the promotion and expansion of domestic and intra-African trade, particularly in the context of the African Economic Community, and of developing its international trade relations.

90. In this connection, the secretariat, among other things, serviced the twelfth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade in Tunis from 20 to 24 October 1993. The conference, which was held against the backdrop of significant developments taking place in the international trade relations, was convened under the theme "Fostering an enabling environment for Africa's trade into the twenty-first century: Policies, strategies and measures."

91. Among the reports presented for discussion by the meeting were:

(a) The effective participation of Africa in international trade;

(b) The continuing decline in commodity prices of export interest to Africa;

(c) The role of the private sector in promoting intra-African trade;

(d) The impact on Africa of the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations; and

(e) The preparation for the Mid-Term Review of the Lome IV Convention in the wake of the European Union and enhancing South-South cooperation.

92. Also presented to the conference for its review were:

(a) A report entitled "Enhancing the role of women in domestic trade" on a study outlining the factors hindering women from realizing their full potential in domestic trade and proposing policy measures that could possibly improve women's situation and make credit facilities easily accessible to women entrepreneurs; and

(b) A report entitled "Facilitating development of rural trade through provision of services, trade financing and rural credit" which was also submitted to the technical meeting of experts of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade.

93. A number of studies on trade development and cooperation with emphasis on domestic, intra-African and international trade were translated into publications.

94. The publications on domestic trade looked at possible ways for its enhancement and included factors contributing to the underdevelopment of domestic trade in Africa among which were elaborated an underdeveloped entrepreneurship and lack of appropriate and supportive infrastructures. Another publication examined the need to develop rural trade within the context of the strategies for developing Africa's economies as recognized by most African countries since independence. It further examined mechanisms needed for facilitating the development of rural trade, particularly as regards the need to provide adequate services in support of such trade, including appropriate trade financing and rural credit.

95. Publications in the area of intra-African trade included the following:

(a) Prospects for expanding intra-African trade through planning of production on subregional basis;

(b) The growth prospects for intra-African trade and elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers;

(c) Mechanisms for stabilizing the export earnings of African countries;

(d) African Trade Bulletin, volumes 17 and 18;

(e) Flash on Trade Opportunities, numbers 58, 59, 60 and 61;

(f) Directory of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Mines, fourth edition; and

(g) African Trade Directory, Volume 1: The external debt crisis.

96. The emergence of large regional trading blocs in other regions of the world and potential threat of growing protectionism necessitated the secretariat to undertake studies to assess the impact of all these developments on the region's international trade. These studies resulted in the following publications:

(a) Africa's competitiveness in the traditional markets past experiences and questions for future; and

(b) Africa's export prospects: The Uruguay Round and beyond.

*Monetary and financial policies and strategies*

97. Activities in monetary and financial policies and strategies concentrated on assisting African countries to devise strategies for alleviating the debt burden and improving their debt management capabilities as well as helping in the process of monetary and financial integration in Africa in the context of implementation of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. The experiences derived from these activities were described in various reports submitted to the fifth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, which took place in Libreville, Gabon on 1 and 2 March 1994. The conference was preceded by the meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts from ministries of finance and central banks from 25 to 28 February 1994. The conference convened under the theme "The problematic of financing development in Africa". It also deliberated on a number of issues covering trade financing problems in Africa; the debt problems and resource mobilization including the establishment of an African Monetary Fund.

98. A discussion forum was organized to coincide with the conference providing an opportunity for the ministers to exchange views on the issues presented by prominent speakers invited from multilateral institutions, United Nations agencies and other professionals and academicians.

99. The secretariat undertook research on topical monetary and financial issues, particularly Africa's debt and implications of recent developments in the world economy on the economic, monetary and financial situation of Africa, the outcome of which is reflected in the following publications:

(a) Measures needed to facilitate trade financing in African countries;

(b) Analysis of the impact of debt-relief initiatives on African debt;

(c) New initiatives to deal with the African debt problem within a framework ensuring linkages between debt, trade and development;

(d) Impact of new developments in international economic, monetary and financial relations on economic, monetary and financial situation in Africa;

(e) The impact of recent international developments on net resource transfer to African countries; and

(f) The impact of political and economic changes in the East, especially in former USSR countries, on the external financing trends of African countries.

100. The secretariat, as part of enhancing its capacity for analyzing and forecasting Africa's external debt situation, initiated the creation of a database on Africa's external debt profile incorporating both Africa's external debt statistics and variables determining its capacity to service debt.

101. The secretariat also organized a seminar on review of Africa's debt situation and the impact of declining commodity prices on Africa's capacity to grow and service its external debt, which took place in Addis Ababa on 15 and 16 November 1993, followed by a workshop on review of pragmatic ways and means of alleviating Africa's external debt burden, on 17 and 18 November 1993.

102. With regard to the secretariat's cooperation with subregional, regional and international IGOs, it participated and contributed in the following meetings and workshops:

(a) Second High-Level Expert Group Meeting for the Global Coalition For Africa, Washington, D.C., from 2 to 5 May, 1993;

(b) Meeting of the Working Party of the African Caucus of the Board of Governors of the IMF/World Bank, Arusha, from 3 to 6 August 1993;

(c) Twenty-ninth session of the Board of Governors of the African Development Bank and the twentieth session of the African Development Fund, Abidjan, from 12 to 14 May 1993;

(d) Second African-African American Summit, Libreville, from 24 to 28 May, 1993; and

(e) Ministerial meeting on the initiative to facilitate cross-border investment, trade and payment in East and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean region, Kampala, 27 August 1993.

103. During the period under review, the Joint ECA/UNCTAD Unit on Transnational Corporations continued to focus its efforts on research with the

view to encourage private sector activities for better output and to enhance the role of foreign direct investment in the financing of African development. In this regard, the Unit undertook the following studies:

(a) Foreign direct investment from developing countries: The case of Mauritius;

(b) The role of trading transnational corporations on the development of industrialization in the developing countries: The case of Nigeria and Ghana;

(c) Investment flows from Central and Eastern Europe into Africa: Case study on Nigeria;

(d) Prospect for increased future activity of Japanese FDI in Africa;

(e) Technology transfer through foreign direct investment: The case of Japanese investment in Africa; and

(f) Japanese foreign direct investment in Africa: The case of Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya and Ethiopia.

104. The Joint ECA/UNCTAD Unit on Transnational Corporations participated in the meeting of the preparatory committee of the Tokyo Conference on African Development, 15 to 25 March 1993 and in the Conference itself from 1 to 8 October 1993.

*Natural resources*

105. Activities in the natural resources areas covered the exploration and development of mineral resources; the development and management of water resources and the development and provision of cartographic and remote sensing services.

106. In the area of mineral resources, the secretariat's primary objective was to promote cooperation among ECA member States for the development and management of their mineral resources. In this context, the secretariat organized and serviced the fifth Regional Conference on Mineral Resources Development and Utilization in Africa under the theme "Mineral resources development and environment in Africa."

107. In line with the objective of promoting cooperation among member States, the secretariat carried out a comparative study to review the present status of mineral resources development policies in the region, from which emerged a publication entitled "Mineral resources development polices in Africa."

108. During the period under consideration, technical assistance was provided to:

(a) The Government of Equatorial Guinea, in proposing a new organizational structure of the Mining Department;

(b) Egyptian Aluminium Facilities, by conducting jointly with UNIDO a study on "copper and aluminium fabricating facilities in Africa";

(c) Mintex/South Africa, by contributing and presenting a paper as one of the key speakers

to the conference on financial and technical support for mining ventures, organized by Mintex/South Africa in Johannesburg in November 1993;

(d) The Government of the Niger, by providing a resource person who presented a paper on "constraints on small-scale gold mining in Africa", at a round-table meeting organized by the Government in Niamey in October 1993;

(e) The Central African Mineral Resources Development Centre (CAMRDC), by assisting in the organization and servicing of the meeting of its Executive Board which reviewed the difficulties presently faced by the Centre with the view to revitalizing its operation;

(f) The East and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre (ESAMRDC), in sensitizing its member States on its financial difficulties and in the servicing of the meeting of its Governing Council; and

(g) The Liptako-Gourma Development Authority, comprising Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger, by undertaking a comparative study based on a field mission to Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Guinea, with a view to rationalizing small-scale gold mining activities in the member countries of the Authority.

109. Activities in the field of water resources covered the following:

(a) In the framework of enhancing a closer working relationship among organizations involved in water resources development in Africa, the secretariat organized and convened in June 1993 the second annual meeting of Inter-agency Group for Water in Africa (IGWA), a body established for the coordination and harmonization of water activities by the United Nations system of organizations and intergovernmental bodies in Africa;

(b) In order to facilitate dialogue among the Undugu group of countries on cooperation in water development related issues, the secretariat organized, convened and serviced the tenth ministerial meeting of Undugu countries which reviewed a draft memorandum of understanding for cooperation among the countries of the subregion;

(c) Studies resulting in publications covering problems and prospects for water development were undertaken. These were:

(i) Launching of the study on the problems and prospects for integrated development of the Nile basin. Emanating from the findings and information derived from this study was a report containing proposals for subregional cooperation on development of the Nile elucidating the scope, strategies, framework and modalities for cooperation;

(ii) Preparation of a comprehensive report on existing trans-boundary river/lake basin organizations in Africa and presented at the ECA/UNDP joint meeting on coordination and harmonization of activities of the intergovernmental organizations;

(iii) Publication of the sixth issue of MAJI, an annual information bulletin on water resources activities in Africa in December 1993; and

(iv) Publication of a technical study on conservation and rational use of water resources in selected North African countries. Based on this study, a summary paper was presented at a workshop on ground water organized by the Secretariat of the League of Arab States.

110. The secretariat participated in the sixth session of the Working Group on Hydrology of the WMO Regional Association for Africa, held in Abidjan, from 24 November to 3 December 1993, at which contributions were made in the formulation of the future programmes of countries in Africa and of WMO in the area of water resources assessment.

111. In the field of cartography and remote sensing, the secretariat provided technical and managerial advisory services to the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing (RCSSMRS) in Nairobi; the Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS) in Ile Ife, Nigeria and the African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing (AOCRS) in Algiers.

112. The secretariat's services and products in cartography and remote sensing also included the following:

(a) Preparation of the exhibition material on ECA's activities to the first Afro-Arab Trade Fair, held in Tunis from 22 to 31 October 1993;

(b) Preparation and dissemination of information on surveying, mapping, remote sensing and geographic information systems to the relevant institutions in the member countries;

(c) Preparation of technical papers for the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing's Working Group on International Mapping from Space, held in Hannover, Germany, in September 1993 and for the United Nations Regional Conference on Space Technology for

Sustainable Development in Africa which took place in Dakar from 25 to 29 October 1993.

*Energy, including new and renewable sources of energy*

113. The thrust of the secretariat's activities in the area of energy, including new and renewable sources of energy, during the period under review aimed at assisting member States in the development of indigenous energy sources and the formulation of adequate energy policy, in strengthening institutional and capacity building through training of African experts in the energy sector.

114. The above activities were carried out through studies and research, expert group meetings, technical publications, training/seminars and workshops.

115. Specifically, the secretariat organized an ad hoc expert group meeting for senior advisers on "Energy policy and strategies in Africa", in Addis Ababa from 17 to 19 May 1993.

116. The following technical publications were prepared during the period under review:

(a) Energy supply, energy use and related policy options in African countries; and

(b) Potential contribution of new and renewable sources of energy to the African energy supply.

117. As part of its contribution to the symposium/-exhibition on the fabrication of electrical materials in Africa, held in Casablanca in May 1994, the secretariat prepared and presented two papers entitled: "South-South, North-South partnership, its prospects and development" and "Experience of equipment manufacturing and installation industries existing in Africa".

*Science and technology for development*

118. During the period under review, the science and technology activities of the secretariat focused on the strengthening of infrastructure for policy making and planning in the development and application of science and technology; human resources development and utilization of manpower for science and technology; and promotion of subregional and regional cooperation.

119. The secretariat organized the biennial meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Science and Technology Development (IGCESTD), in Addis Ababa from 22 to 26 November 1993, at which participants examined important issues arising out of various meetings and studies implemented during the 1992-1993 biennium and made recommendations on policies and strategies for enhancing the management of science and technology in the member States. It also organized the second meeting of the North Africa Subregional Working Group in Tunis from 13 to 16 December 1993 which, among other things, examined the developments in science and technology in the member States of the subregion, elaborated a number of subregional projects and examined the basis for a subregional policy in science and technology.

120. With regard to the provision of technical support, assistance was provided to the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT) and the African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO) in programme development and execution by providing advisory service to the meetings of its Executive Board and its sub-committees from 13 to 19 April 1994 which elaborated the future orientation of the work programme.

121. The secretariat, in its efforts to strengthen capacities in science and technology, organized two training workshops in Kampala from 17 to 21 May 1993 and from 20 to 24 September 1994. The first workshop was on the integration of science and technology, economic and development policies, while the second dealt with technology assessment: its concepts, methodologies and institutional arrangements.

122. With regard to regional and subregional cooperation, the secretariat participated in a workshop on science and technology organized by the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) in Lusaka on 21 and 22 July 1993 which examined a study on the science and technology situation in the subregion. The secretariat also assisted RANDFORUM in the organization of and participated in the first Presidential Forum, a significant event in the overall effort to mobilize the African political leadership to support the development and application of science and technology, which took place in Gaborone, Botswana from 31 October to 1 November 1993.

123. The secretariat carried out a study on the subregional and regional professional scientific and technical associations and institutions, the aim of which was to identify measures for galvanizing the capacities of scientific and technological institutions in promoting socio-economic development.

*Population*

124. During the period under review, the secretariat's activities in population issues emphasized the integration of population factors in development planning as well as on studies in the areas of population dynamics, family planning, HIV/AIDS and other pandemic and their interrelationships with sustainable development.

125. In this respect, the secretariat presented a number of reports to the eighth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and

Demographers, held in Addis Ababa from 21 to 26 March 1994). These included:

(a) Implementation of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on population;

(b) Comparative study on family planning and birth spacing programmes in ECA member States;

(c) Demographic and social consequences of ageing in ECA member States;

(d) Socio-economic and demographic consequences of HIV/AIDS and other pandemic in ECA member States;

(e) Population activities in 1992-1993, examination of the approved programme of work for 1994-1995 and consideration of the draft work programme for 1996-1997; and

(f) Preparations for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development: the African Common Position.

126. The secretariat carried out a number of research studies which set out to examine the inter-relationships between population factors and sustainable development, and determination of appropriate policies and strategies for addressing these inter-related issues. Research findings were presented in the following technical publications:

(a) An assessment of the formulation and implementation of national population programmes in ECA member States during the 1990s;

(b) A manual for the integration of population factors in human resource development with particular reference to educational sector planning;

(c) Mortality levels, patterns, trends, differentials and their socio-economic interrelationships in Africa;

(d) Correlation of changing infant and child mortality and fertility in relation to development programmes in selected member States;

(e) Relationship between population and environment with particular reference to mortality in selected member States;

(f) Alternatives to traditional approaches in the formulation and implementation of family planning programmes in African countries; and

(g) Consistency of United Nations projections with those produced by selected ECA member States.

127. In addition to assisting member States in building their capacities through training and seminars, advisory services were offered in the areas of population analysis, evaluation, dissemination and project formulation under the new system of UNFPA's technical support services and country support teams located in Addis Ababa, Dakar and Harare.

128. The ECA-sponsored Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) in Accra and the *Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques* (IFORD) in Yaounde continued to provide training and research programmes. The RIPS programme offered a twelve-month Master of Arts (MA) Degree in Population Studies; a Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) and the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) Degree in Population Studies, while the IFORD programme comprised of formal training courses in demographic studies.

*Transport and communications*

129. Four main activities dominated the secretariat's efforts in the field of transport and communications. These were related to international cooperation, parliamentary services, published materials, operational activities, ad hoc expert group meetings and coordination, harmonization and liaison activities with respect to the implementation of the programme of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II).

130. As regards parliamentary related activities, the following were accomplished:

(a) Development and presentation of two reports to the North African Transport Committee on ECA's contribution to the implementation of the Committee's work programme and the reestablishment of the Trans-African Highway Bureau;

(b) Presentation of a report to an intergovernmental meeting of African port experts and senior officials on current status and steps taken to promote cooperation among African ports.

131. Technical materials on the development of transport, telecommunications and postal services in Africa as well as on the management and/or operation of transport services in Africa were prepared and published as follows:

(a) Three newsletters on the activities of UNTACDA II;

(b) Guidelines for improving clearing and forwarding operations in Africa;

(c) Guidelines for improved management of shipping in Africa;

(d) Port dues and charges for cargo-handling and their impact on efficiency;

(e) Guidelines for improving coordination among port authorities and port users;

(f) Guidelines on improvement of inland water port efficiency in Africa;

(g) Measures to improve air transport activities and services in Africa;

(h) Efficiency and performance of maintenance and repair workshops for rolling stock in African railways;

(i) Ways of strengthening subregional cooperation through pooling and rational use of existing maintenance and repair capacities and promotion of spare parts manufacture;

(j) Review of road transit charges in the various subregions: economic evaluation of selected substandard sections of the trans-African highways;

(k) Development of standard maintenance management systems;

(l) Guidelines on the development of human resource capabilities in the field of freight forwarding in Africa;

(m) Developments in the dimensions of maritime containers and their consequences for road, rail, maritime and inland water transport in Africa;

(n) Guidelines in the development of efficient transport chains along transit corridors;

(o) Planning concepts of digital networks;

(p) Status of African telecommunications networks development; and

(q) Guidelines for improving intra-African mail routeing plans.

132. The secretariat organized an ad hoc expert group meeting to review guidelines on development of subregional cooperation in shipping in Africa.

133. Three field projects, namely human resource and institutional development, transport database and manufacture of transport equipment, were being carried out. The first concerns the development of management policy reform, institutional development, technical and other human capacities in the regional transport and communications sector; the second relates to activities aimed at the eventual establishment of transport data gathering, processing and dissemination; and the third looks into the feasibility of manufacturing selected transport equipment and/or components in Africa.

*Tourism*

134. During the period under review, the secretariat carried out substantive activities towards the development of tourism in Africa. These included assistance to member States, research and publications and cooperation with other organizations in analyzing policies and strategies and building capacities required to effectively manage tourism development.

135. Assistance to member States and intergovernmental organizations in defining their needs. Building capacities for meeting these needs included:

(a) Elaboration of terms of reference for the initiation of the pan-African tourism organization, in cooperation with the Southern Africa Regional Tourism Council;

(b) Assistance to Madagascar in the organization of a festival of arts and culture; and

(c) Assistance to COMESA in the elaboration of a tourism programme and a strategy for the development of tourism in the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States.

136. A compendium on the deliberations of the Conferences of African Ministers of Tourism, highlighting the major decisions taken, is being prepared.

137. Furthermore, during the period under review, the secretariat worked closely with other organizations, specifically with the World Tourism Organization on the organization of the seminar on tourism statistics, for which ECA prepared a technical publication on "Tourism and national accounts". It also contributed to the renegotiation of the Lome IV Convention with the African Group of the ACP States in Brussels.

*Women in development*

138. The secretariat carried out activities which emphasized the importance of economic empowerment of women and their access to resources and the enhancement of the role of women in the mainstream of development. In this respect, activities were undertaken towards building up and reinforcing the business and managerial capabilities of women, capacity building as well as strengthening of the data base on women. Particular attention was also placed on the preparation of the Africa region for the World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in 1995.

139. In its effort to enhance women's entrepreneurial activities, the secretariat undertook a prefeasibility study on the establishment of a bank for women with a view to promoting women's productive activities. The secretariat, in collaboration with

the Pan-African Institute for Development of East and Southern Africa (PAID-ESA) and with financial assistance from the Netherlands Government, organized a training of trainers workshop for promotion of women entrepreneurs and their access to credit, the major objective of which was to develop a critical corps of trainers in sub-Saharan Africa who will effectively transfer entrepreneurial, managerial and technological skills to women entrepreneurs, thereby enhancing and strengthening their capabilities. An important activity was the launching of an African Federation of Women Entrepreneurs in Accra in June 1993.

140. The other focus of the secretariat's programme was to strengthen the information network on women. In this respect, the following publications were prepared:

(a) An Annotated Bibliography on African Women which addressed mainly the question of women's access to and role in the decision-making process and politics; and

(b) Two issues of the newsletter ATRCW Update focusing on environmental issues and activities undertaken in the region in preparation of the Regional Conference on Women preparatory to the World Conference as well as issues related to African women entrepreneurship.

141. A number of studies were also undertaken, namely:

(a) The external debt crisis and its impact on African women which addressed the problem of the debt crisis and highlighted its impact on women in the field of agriculture, health and employment; and

(b) Women in food processing, preservation, storage and agro-industries which provided an analysis of the role of women in the field and made sound recommendations aimed at enhancing women's skills in food processing, production and marketing.

142. A series of subregional workshops were organized with a view to ensuring coherence in the national preparations for the Regional and the World Conferences on women. These were Eastern and Southern Africa, from 28 February to 2 March; West Africa, from 17 to 19 March; North Africa, from 27 to 29 March; and Central Africa and the Great Lakes countries, from 18 to 20 April 1994 .

143. The secretariat assisted in the preparation and organization of the Regional Conference on Women and Peace which took place in Kampala from 22 to 25 November 1993. The conference, which assembled women and men from government, NGOs and international institutions, adopted the Kampala Action Plan on Women and Peace.

144. The secretariat also organized an ad hoc expert group meeting in Addis Ababa from 6 to 10 December 1993 to consider strategies for the enhancement of women's skills in mainstreaming and decision making.

*Statistical development*

145. During the period under review, the activities of the secretariat in the area of statistical development were designed to assist African countries to implement the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s as well as support national programmes for the continued collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of integrated demographic, economic and environment statistics while the Plan of Action is being implemented.

146. A major activity was the organization and servicing of the eighth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians, Demographers and Information Scientists in March 1994 at which major conclusions and recommendations were adopted for the attainment of sustainable statistical development.

147. In line with the emphasis placed on coordination of statistical policies, programmes and activities, the secretariat organized the third and fourth annual meetings of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development (CASD) in Addis Ababa in July 1993 and March 1994 respectively. The four CASD sub-committees on Training; Research, Methods and Standards; Data Processing; and Organization and Management of National Statistical Systems also held annual meetings in Africa, Europe and the United States of America, with the following organizations as conveners: Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT) and United Kingdom Overseas Development Administration (ODA); United Nations Statistical Division (UNSTAT); Statistics Sweden; the World Bank and ECA.

148. During the period, assistance was provided to 14 African countries in conducting needs assessment and strategy development exercises (NASD) in order to identify current and future data needs of primary users of statistics and map out strategies to prioritize and satisfy those needs within available resources.

149. Activities in support of continued collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of integrated demographic, economic and environment statistics emphasized the strengthening of national capacities. In this respect, 45 technical advisory missions providing on-the-job training were undertaken.

150. The following reports were produced:

(a) A strategy for the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s; and

(b) Guidelines for needs assessment and strategy development.

151. The following publications were produced:

(a) Two issues of African Socio-economic Indicators, 1990-1991 and 1992;

(b) Bibliography of African Statistical Publications, 1992-1993;

(c) African Statistical Yearbook, 1990-1991, Volume 1, Part 2, West Africa and Volume II, Part 3, East and Southern Africa;

(d) *Secteur informel: Amélioration des statistiques du secteur informel en Afrique avec un accent particulier sur la mesure de la contribution des femmes dans le secteur*;

(e) *Quelques considérations sur les concepts, définitions et classification utilisés dans les recensements de la population et les enquêtes démographiques en Afrique*;

(f) Role of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) in strengthening price statistics systems of African countries;

(g) Development of national statistical databases and impact of new technology on statistical computing in the African region.

152. Some research studies were conducted, particularly within the framework of the development of intra-African trade. One was on the improvement of data collection techniques and estimation. Another was on the use and analysis of household surveys data conducted with the aim of promoting data interpretation and application in general and household surveys data in particular. Furthermore, draft guidelines on the development of quantitative indicators for monitoring statistical development were produced and disseminated.

*Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group*

153. During the period under review, the ECA Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group (MRAG) carried out research and operational activities including multidisciplinary advisory services, training, seminars and workshops. The work of the Group aimed at enhancing the secretariat's operational activities to meet the challenges of Africa's regional policies and strategies with particular reference to the establishment of the African Economic Community; the transformation of African economies; and priority sectors of the Lagos Plan of Action. It was within the context of these priority areas that MRAG addressed the specific problems and activities indicated below.

154. In the field of economic cooperation and integration, MRAG mounted a series of multidisciplinary technical advisory teams to member States and subregional economic communities focusing on:

(a) Evaluating and strengthening national institutions and ministerial structures established for economic cooperation;

(b) Establishing economic cooperation and integration ministries;

(c) Providing core competency skills to enhance the capacity of staff to enable them to implement economic cooperation decisions and acts at the national level;

(d) Rationalizing the multiplicity of IGOs in each subregion of Africa so that they can function as a single economic community and dynamic unifying force to give subregional economic integration a clear sense of direction and purpose;

(e) Reviewing the treaties of the subregional economic community schemes to enable them incorporate the substantive sectors reflected in the Abuja Treaty;

(f) Designing priorities of the subregional economic communities to dovetail with those of the African Economic Community, since the Abuja Treaty underscored the importance of the subregional economic groupings as building blocks in the process for the attainment of the objectives of the African Economic Community;

(g) Assisting in the preparation of the various protocols to facilitate implementation of the revised treaties of the subregional economic community schemes; and

(h) Revising treaties to reflect the essential elements of a democratic framework in the development process as ingredients par excellence of sustainable development underlined in the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation.

155. Closely related to this was MRAG's efforts towards popularizing the Abuja Treaty and the concept of economic cooperation and integration through provision of technical assistance to member States in establishing parliamentary associations of the various economic communities.

156. Regarding the transformation of African economies, advisory services were undertaken on macroeconomic and sectoral policies, particularly in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of development programmes which can lead to the

realization of the objectives of structural adjustment, socio-economic transformation and sustained development in Africa.

157. Attention was also given to the formulation and implementation of policies and plans appropriate for human resources development and utilization, the integration of the social dimension in adjustment and development programmes and manpower and employment planning through series of multidisciplinary advisory missions to countries.

158. In the field of energy and development, advisory services concentrated on energy strategy in member States; energy projects in relief and rehabilitation programmes; sustainable settlement and resettlement of refugees and displaced persons; planning of energy and other physical infrastructure; rehabilitation for sustainable development; feasibility of local production of biofuels which supplement imported diesel fuel to save foreign exchange while creating employment in agriculture and industry; and strategy for cooperation in hydro and solar energy development.

159. Training seminars and workshops constituted another area of activity during the period. Briefly, MRAG advisers served as resource persons by providing technical support to training courses, seminars and workshops for improving the performance of the public sector; privatization and public enterprise; public financial management; and strengthening the capabilities of national and subregional training and research institutions. Some training programmes focused attention on the formulation of genuinely national framework papers for adjustment with socio-economic transformation in a multidisciplinary context, especially the aspects relating to development finance, debt policy, and resource flows. Others set out to strengthening the capabilities of national and subregional training and research institutions in the formulation and implementation of appropriate human resources development and utilization policies and plans.

160. The Group participated in workshops and seminars on:

(a) The implementation of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development;

(b) Management of the environment;

(c) Sustainable food and agricultural production, policy and planning;

(d) Sustainable energy development in Africa in the context of Agenda 21;

(e) Energy policy planning and environment in Africa.

(f) National accounts organization;

(g) Management of statistical and information systems development;

### C. *Relations with other United Nations programmes*

161. During the period under review, the secretariat intensified its cooperation with other United Nations organizations, bodies and agencies engaged in development work in the region.

162. In the case of FAO, joint actions, including programming and implementation of activities in the agriculture sector through the Joint ECA/FAO Agriculture Division, continued to be the primary mode of cooperation. FAO provided material and technical inputs in the organization of the workshop on public sector capacities in project management and administration referred to above. It has also extended similar assistance in the organization of seminars on capacity building in the fisheries sector and in the preparation of related documentation.

163. In keeping with the expectation of the resolution adopting IDDA II which, among other things, urged the two organizations to cooperate in the implementation of the Decade programme for the benefit of the region, ECA and UNIDO jointly organized the eleventh meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry.

164. ECA also participated in the fifth General Conference of UNIDO which endorsed the African Common Position adopted by the eleventh meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry.

165. In the field of human settlements, the secretariat continued to cooperate with UNCHS (Habitat), particularly in the preparatory process for Habitat II to articulate experiences, trends, ideas and policies as specific inputs of the African region to the Preparatory Committee's work. ECA participated in the consultative meeting on strategy for effective participation of African region in Habitat II preparatory process, in Nairobi on 18 and 19 November 1993. Jointly with UNCHS (Habitat), ECA organized the following meetings in Nairobi:

(a) High-Level Regional Expert Group Meeting on the preparation of Habitat II, 21-25 February 1994;

(b) Regional Meeting of Governmental Experts on the preparation of Habitat II, 28-29 March 1994; and

(c) Ministerial Meeting on establishing an African Common Position in preparing the region for Habitat II, 30 March 1994.

166. The secretariat also contributed to the preparation of the programme of the network of African countries on local building materials and technologies during the workshop on the above

subject held in Nairobi from 6 to 8 September 1993. The secretariat presented a paper on shelter indicators at the Expert Group Meeting on Urban Indicators, organized by UNCHS (Habitat) in Nairobi from 10 to 14 January 1994. It also participated in the first consultation on construction industry, organized by UNIDO and UNCHS (Habitat), in Tunis from 3 to 7 May 1993.

167. Collaborative activities with UNESCO included ECA's participation in a symposium on science and technology in Africa and a regional meeting on the development of the university-industry-science partnership programme, organized by UNESCO in Nairobi from 14 to 22 February 1994. The secretariat contributed to global efforts to evolve common strategies in the implementation of chapter 35 of Agenda 21 dealing with science for sustainable development through participation in ad hoc consultations on science and technology, held under the auspices of UNESCO in Paris on 24 and 25 March 1994. An ad hoc expert group meeting on curriculum reform for development and self-confidence building in Africa was held in cooperation with UNESCO/BREDA in Addis Ababa from 18 to 21 October 1993. In information systems development, coordination with UNESCO on development information and informatics in the African region was through ECA's participation at a UNESCO meeting of high-level informatics experts in Africa and of RINAF in Nairobi from 12 to 16 July 1993; UNESCO's participation in the ECA committee on coordination; and regular consultations with UNESCO on coordination of telematics projects in the African region.

168. The secretariat, through its information systems development unit, worked closely with WHO on the coordination of health information activities in Africa. It also participated in a meeting of key players in health information in Africa, organized by WHO in New York on 21 April 1994. In coordinating activities in microeconomic development issues, the secretariat participated in the twelfth meeting of the WHO/AFRO on African Advisory Committee for Health Development (AACHD) and in the forty-second Regional Committee on Health which reviewed issues of health policy and development.

169. Collaboration with IMO, ICAO, ITU and UPU was intensified on the implementation of the programme of the second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.

170. In line with the System-wide Medium-term Plan for the advancement of women, the African Centre for Women continued to develop close working relationship with other United Nations agencies, especially with regard to the preparatory activities towards the fourth World Conference on Women. In this connection, an Inter-Agency Task Force composed of UNIFEM, UNDP, UNICEF, ADB, OAU and FEMNET, the convener of the African NGO Forum, has been constituted to coordinate and harmonize activities related to the preparations of the Africa region for the World Conference on Women. In addition, the Centre took part in the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

171. Collaboration with UNCTAD concerned trade and development, in particular the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. It also participated in the second session of UNCTAD Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Iron Ore, in October 1993.

172. The secretariat also worked with other units of the United Nations on the coordination of various development issues; global and regional specifics. These included:

(a) Coordination of population information in Africa with the Population Division of the United Nations;

(b) Attendance at the United Nations Inter-Agency meeting and contribution of inputs to the Secretary-General's Report on coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system;

(c) Organized jointly with the Economic Development Institute (EDI/World Bank) a seminar on energy policy and planning and the environment, in Abidjan from 20 to 29 October 1993;

(d) Participation in the UNDP/International Ocean Institute meeting on training in coastal zone management;

(e) Participation in the global conference on training in coastal zone management, held in Sardinia in June 1993 organized by the Division of Ocean Affairs of the United Nations Department of Legal Affairs, in collaboration with the United Nations University;

(f) Participation in the twelfth session of the Preparatory Commission for International Seabed Authority;

(g) Regular consultation with UNEP on the implementation of the System-wide Medium-term Environment Programme (SWMTEP);

(h) Participation in the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders;

(i) Collaboration with the Population Division at United Nations Headquarters and UNFPA in the following meetings:

(i) Round-table on population and development, in Bangkok;

(ii) Preparatory committee meetings for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development;

(iii) Twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission;

(iv) Inter-Agency Task Force on the country support teams;

(j) Collaboration with ILO on human resources development, planning and utilization issues; and

(k) Participation in the United Nations Statistical Commission and the ACC Sub-committee on statistical and information activities.

## CHAPTER III

## TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION AND TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

### A. *Attendance and organization of work*

173. The twenty-ninth session of the Commission/twentieth meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning was held in Addis Ababa, from 2 to 5 May 1994. The meeting was formally opened by H.E. Ato Meles Zenawi, President of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia. The Secretary-General of the United Nations sent a message which was read to the Conference. A message from the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity was read to the Conference by a special envoy. H.E. Alhaji Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, President of the Republic of the Gambia, delivered a keynote address to mark the thirty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. Statements were delivered at the opening ceremony by Mr. Layashi Yaker, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa; Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity; Mr. Jean-Claude Milleron, United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis; and Ms. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa. Ambassador Paul Marc-Henry and Ambassador Yaw Turkson also delivered statements as special guests. Mr. Augustin Frederic Kodock, Minister of State for Planning and Territorial Development of Cameroon, the outgoing Chairman of the twenty-eighth session of the Commission, read out a statement. H.E. Mr. Jack Tumwa, Ambassador of Kenya, moved a vote of thanks on behalf of participants.

174. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Tunisia, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

175. Observers from the following Member States of the United Nations were present: Belgium, Canada, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, United States of America and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

176. The Holy See and Palestine, not Members of the United Nations, were also represented as observers. The African National Congress (ANC) participated as an observer.

177. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, Regional Commissions New York Office (RCNYO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations University (UNU), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/GATT), World Food Programme (WFP), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

178. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the African Development Bank (ADB) were represented.

179. Observers were present from the following intergovernmental organizations: African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM), African, Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP), African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD), African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), African Regional Centre for Engineering, Design and Manufacturing (ARCEDEM), African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO), Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (AATPO), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Environmental Development Action in the Third World (ENDA), the Hunger Project, *Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques* (IFORD), Inter-Africa Group (IAG), Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), International Confederation of Free

Trade Unions (ICFTU), International Development Research Centre (IDRC), International Livestock Centre for Africa (ILCA), Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA), Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS), Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS), Research and Development Forum for Science-Led Development in Africa (RANDFORUM) and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC),

180. The Conference elected the following officers:

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| Chairman: | Tunisia |
| First Vice-Chairman: | Nigeria |
| Second Vice-Chairman: | Zambia |
| Rapporteur: | Gabon |

B. *Agenda*

181. On 2 May 1994, the Conference adopted the following agenda:

***Conference theme:***
***ECA at 35; Building critical capacities in Africa for accelerated growth and sustainable development***

1. Opening of the meeting.

2. One minute of silent prayer or meditation. The Conference observed a moment of silence to honour the memory of the late Mr. Robert K.A. Gardiner, Executive Secretary of ECA (1963-1975) who passed away recently.

3. Election of officers.

4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

5. General debate on:

   (a) ECA at 35;

   (b) Perspectives of Africa's socio-economic development;

   (c) Building critical capacities in Africa for accelerated growth and sustainable development.

6. Consideration of the report and recommendations of the fifteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole on:

   (a) Economic report on Africa 1994;

   (b) Report on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF);

   (c) Biennial report of the Executive Secretary on the work of the Commission, 1992-1993;

   (d) Building critical capacities in Africa for accelerated growth and sustainable development;

   (e) Regional and global cooperation for development in Africa;

   (f) Statutory issues:

      (i) Staff and administrative questions;

      (ii) Issues from the subsidiary organs and sectoral bodies of the Commission calling for action by the Conference of Ministers;

   (g) Programme of work and priorities of the Commission.

7. Any other business.

8. Date and venue and other matters related to the thirtieth session of the Commission/twenty-first meeting of the Conference of Ministers.

9. Consideration and adoption of the report and resolutions of the meeting.

10. Closure of the meeting.

C. *Account of proceedings*

*Opening addresses*

182. In his opening statement, His Excellency Ato Meles Zenawi, President of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia welcomed H.E. Alhaji Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, President of the Republic of the Gambia to Addis Ababa. He thanked him for accepting to grace the twentieth meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic and social development which coincided with the thirty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa by his presence.

183. The President remarked that this was a fitting occasion to take stock of both the achievements and failures of ECA. ECA's assistance in the establishment of numerous regional and subregional economic development institutions and the continued working relations between it and these organizations had been a valuable contribution to the continent's economic development. However, creating institutions was not an end in itself. The

yardstick for assessing the efficacy of institutions was their functional effectiveness and the degree to which they attained the goals for which they had been created. From the point of view of the tragic state of Africa's economic and social conditions, neither the economic institutions nor the policies and strategies that had been articulated so far had been effective, he observed.

184. The President recalled that the current session of ministers was taking place in the context of absolutely dire conditions in Africa, not only in the economic area but also in the political, social and cultural areas, as well as in the psychological domain. Economic malaise and social decay had created senseless violence, resulting in the total collapse of the State and the loss of a sense of human decency in some countries. Referring to the impact of the unfavourable international economic environment in which African economies operated, he said that in the 1990s, Africa finds itself in economic and social conditions far worse than those it faced 20 or 30 years ago. The standard prescriptions proposed for, and sometimes imposed on, Africa to redress its problems had denied it the flexibility necessary for tackling difficulties, thereby exacerbating its economic and social plight.

185. The President noted that the international community had continued to respond to humanitarian tragedies in Africa which were the consequence of failed States. He observed, however, that coming to assist Africa after the damage had already been done and societies had fallen apart was much more costly both in financial and human terms. Instead, it was far better for the international community to invest in African economies to make them more viable. He added that in spite of the unhelpful international economic relations, Africans themselves were responsible for improving the economic and social conditions in which they found themselves.

186. Institutions such as ECA, established to assist African countries in their efforts towards economic development, had served them well in the past, articulating strategies for viable economic development and providing the countries with a forum for coordinating their policies. African countries, however, had not made optimal use of these institutions. Thus, it was necessary to focus on their functional effectiveness for economic development when assessing their usefulness.

187. In concluding, the President called upon the Conference to focus on the concrete needs of the African people in its deliberations and come up with practical suggestions and proposals to address them.

188. In a message read on his behalf, Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali, Secretary-General of the United Nations, stated that the theme of this year's meeting, namely "Building critical capacities in Africa for accelerated growth and development", was timely and appropriate. He observed that without the human and institutional capacities needed to support development, progress would be impossible to achieve and sustain. He observed that development had come to be understood as having many dimensions. Each dimension was inseparably linked to every other. Without peace, human energies could not be employed productively over time. Without economic growth, there would be a lack of resources to apply to problems. Without a healthy environment, productivity levels would be unsustainable. Without societal justice, inequalities would consume the best efforts at positive change. Without political participation in freedom, people would have no voice in shaping their individual and common destiny.

189. The Secretary-General pointed out that enhancing the capacity of populations to meet the difficult challenge of development was vital. Strengthening the capacity of national institutions and infrastructures was similarly vital to development. Because governments had crucial development responsibilities, governance and leadership were of central importance. Governance and leadership responsibilities included, among others, investing in infrastructure, facilitating the development of productive sectors, providing an environment for the promotion of private enterprise, ensuring proper social safety nets, and protecting the environment.

190. He observed that the United Nations offered Member States an unparalleled body of knowledge, expertise and goodwill. The regional commissions were at the heart of the Organization's effort to meet the challenge of development. Finally, he expressed the wish that the Conference's deliberations would inform and inspire a continent poised on the edge of greater progress.

191. The message of H.E. President Mohammed Housny Mubarak of Egypt and Current Chairman of OAU was delivered by his special envoy Mr. Ibrahim Fawzy, Minister of Industry of the Republic of Egypt. In the President's message, he congratulated ECA on its thirty-fifth anniversary. He said that ECA's activities in the social and economic fields had been laudable. He however called for a review of the terms of reference of the Commission in order to endow it with resources that would enable it to play the new role of facing up to the challenges of the 1990s, such as the proliferation of political and ethnic conflicts and the need for a far-reaching socio-economic transformation.

192. The President urged participants in the twentieth meeting of the Conference of Ministers to pay particular attention to changes taking place at the national, regional and international levels. He said that the developments in Southern Africa leading up to the independence of Namibia and the dismantling of apartheid clearly illustrated that point.

In the same vein, President Mubarak linked the ongoing democratic processes in the region with the new concepts of development focused on building human-centred infrastructural and institutional capacities.

193. The President noted that the entry into force of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community following its ratification by the required number of member States owed much to regional institutions such as ECA, OAU and ADB, and demonstrated that Africans could solve their own problems. This was strengthened by the OAU's conflict resolution and prevention mechanisms which were expected to contribute to ensuring peace, security and stability which were preconditions for socio-economic development on the continent.

194. In concluding his message, President Mubarak emphasized the need to reduce Africa's technological backwardness, otherwise the continent would be further marginalized in our contemporary world.

195. H.E. Alhaji Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, President of the Republic of the Gambia, delivered the keynote address to the Conference. In his address, he expressed his gratitude to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa for having been invited to participate in the commemorative events marking the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Commission. He expressed appreciation to H.E. Ato Meles Zenawi, President of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia and Chairman of the Council of Representatives, and the Government and people of Ethiopia, and to Mr. Layashi Yaker, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ECA, for the warm welcome accorded to him and his delegation since their arrival in the historic city of Addis Ababa.

196. The President said that since the independence of the Gambia and accession to membership of ECA in 1965, his country had enjoyed a rewarding relationship with ECA. The occasion of the thirty-fifth anniversary offered an excellent opportunity to reflect on the role of the Commission and its mission in the socio-economic development and transformation of Africa. He briefly assessed the role of the Commission from the perspective of its historical evolution. In his view, ECA had passed through three distinct historical phases and was presently in the fourth. The first phase, covering the period 1958-1962, were the formative years during which the Commission assisted member States mainly to build their national institutional capacities for managing national development. The second phase of ECA spanning the period from 1963-1979 saw the Commission devote great emphasis towards supporting member States in building subregional and regional institutions. The third phase covered the period from 1980-1989, when the Commission focused its attention on articulating strategies for socio-economic development in Africa. While the 1980s were considered a "lost decade" for Africa, this was not because of lack of policies and strategies, the articulation of which the Commission was actively engaged in at all stages. He referred to the adoption, in 1986, by African Heads of State and Government of the OAU of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) and to the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD), as a framework for addressing Africa's development challenges. In ECA's current phase beginning around 1990, the convening of the Conference on Popular Participation and Development was a timely response to the many new and emerging challenges facing Africa, indicating the Commission's early recognition of the link between political liberalization, accountability and economic development.

197. The President noted however that, in spite of the renewed political will to achieve economic growth, African economic performance remained weak, mainly because of lack of leadership and commitment, structural deficiencies, global economic recession, mounting debt, falling commodity prices, deterioration of terms of trade and decline in official development assistance in real terms. With the advent of economic restructuring in Africa, it was generally recognized that the role of government and the private sector had to be redefined, with government having the role of creating an enabling environment for the private sector to spearhead economic transformation.

198. The President discussed the experience of the Gambia in the implementation of structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) in agreement with the Bretton Woods institutions. He said that the Gambia's adjustment programme sought to enhance resource mobilization and improve resource allocation. In this respect, a comprehensive strategy for poverty alleviation along with participatory involvement in the development process had been formulated and was applauded at a recently concluded Donors' Roundtable Conference for the Gambia held in Geneva. He asserted, however, that the relative success of the Gambia's experience in structural adjustment did not unfortunately hold true for most African countries. In view of the mixed results achieved by African countries under the orthodox SAPs, in 1988, ECA undertook the initiative to search for an African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes (AAF-SAPs) that would address both adjustment and transformation problems of the African economies. The President cautioned, however, that neither orthodox SAPs nor the alternative framework would succeed if the debt problem was not adequately tackled. He reiterated that foremost among the obstacles to the resumption of growth in Africa was the unsustainable burden of external debt. He therefore stressed the need for development partners to adopt a more realistic approach to the debt crisis, in addition to the efforts of African countries themselves.

199. With respect to multilateral trade, the President pointed out that the issue was equally important for Africa's economic recovery and transformation. In particular, he referred to the recently concluded Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations and its impact on the African economies. He expressed the hope that ECA would bring its vast professional experience and resources in efforts aimed at addressing this challenge, and assisting member States to respond to developments in international trade that the Round entailed.

200. Turning to the theme of the Conference, "Building critical capacities in Africa for accelerated growth and sustainable development", the President elaborated on the importance of capacity building and utilization in solving Africa's economic crisis and putting the continent on the path to sustainable development and growth. He emphasized the need for measures to be put in place to develop critical human skills in African countries. Moreover, these measures should be supplemented by the creation of institutional and adequate infrastructural capacities to support development programmes and projects. He further observed that leadership and direction constitute the catalysts to give a push to the measures outlined above. He furthermore stated that capacity building and popular participation in development were inseparable; therefore African countries, in collaboration with their development partners, should endeavour to address socio-economic problems with the issue of popular participation at the centre of development strategies.

201. The President reiterated the importance of the role of ECA in Africa's socio-economic development. He noted that the Commission's responsibilities today were more challenging and complex compared to the past. He expressed the view that the occasion of the thirty-fifth anniversary offered an excellent opportunity to reflect on the role of the Commission in the socio-economic development of Africa, as well as redefine and re-emphasize the importance of the relationships between the Commission and the African countries, particularly in the mobilization of resources for the continent. He stressed that Africa should forge partnerships in international development as laid down in the Abuja Treaty for regional cooperation. He noted that the entry of South Africa in the international community would be a major event, particularly with regard to socio-economic and political development of the region.

202. Referring to the emergence of a new international order that put emphasis on regional economic blocs, the President stressed that Africa must be accorded greater priority in the international agenda. He underlined that the Joint ECA/OAU/ADB Secretariat should be further strengthened to rise to the challenge of promoting Africa's economic integration. The President observed that Africa's poor economic performance, coupled with the conflicts and natural disasters in various countries, had given rise to all kinds of bleak prognoses about the future of the continent. He expressed confidence, however, that Africa's problems were not insurmountable, provided the courage, commitment and capacity to tackle them existed.

203. The President wished the Commission every success and declared the twenty-ninth session of the Commission/twentieth meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning officially open.

204. H.E. Mr. Jack Tumwa, Ambassador of Kenya, moved a vote of thanks on behalf of all the participants to H.E. Ato Meles Zenawi, President of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia, for having found time to open the twentieth meeting of the Conference of Ministers and for his enlightening speech. He expressed gratitude to the people and the Government of Ethiopia for the hospitality accorded to participants since their arrival in Addis Ababa. He also expressed the participants' appreciation to H.E. Alhaji Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, President of the Republic of the Gambia, to have come all the way to grace this session not only by his personal presence but also by his brilliant keynote statement.

205. Mr. Tumwa further expressed, on behalf of the participants, the common grief at the passing away of Mr. Robert Gardiner, former Executive Secretary of ECA, who contributed tremendously to the cause of Africa during his stewardship of the Commission.

206. Mr. Tumwa concluded his motion by expressing gratitude to the two Heads of State and Government for their inspiring statements. He additionally congratulated the Executive Secretary of ECA and his entire staff for the arrangements made for the thirty-fifth anniversary celebrations of the Commission and the excellent documentation put at the disposal of the Conference.

207. Mr. Layashi Yaker, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa expressed appreciation on behalf of the Commission to H.E. Ato Meles Zenawi, President of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia and to H.E. President Alhaji Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, for having found time to address ECA's thirty-fifth anniversary Conference of Ministers. He paid homage to the late Mr. Robert Kweku Atta Gardiner, second Executive Secretary of the Commission who had served from 1963-1975 and who had passed away on 13 April 1994 in Accra, Ghana.

208. Addressing the Conference theme, "Building critical capacities in Africa for accelerated growth and sustainable development", the Executive Secretary called for human capacities to be built where they do not exist and to be fully utilized where they do. Likewise, the institutions which made and

implemented strategic policy decisions that influenced the allocation of resources needed to be created or strengthened. To increase economic opportunities through sustainable exploitation of land and natural resources with a view to reducing poverty, efficient regional infrastructures were needed to achieve the integration of national markets, create economies of scale and attain a competitive edge in global trade. All this had to be done simultaneously and across carefully selected priority areas if the continent was to be launched on the path of accelerated growth and sustainable development.

209. The Executive Secretary pointed out that the gravity of Africa's continuing economic crisis and the uniqueness of its problems contrasted sharply with the performance of the developing countries as a group whose output grew by an impressive 6 per cent in 1993. Africa's weak economic performance in the face of rapid population growth has been translated directly into unbearable pressures on existing social and physical infrastructures and the growing inability to meet other basic needs. Moreover, the prospects for economic recovery in the near term were not very bright.

210. The Executive Secretary noted that in the past, efforts had concentrated on structural adjustment programmes to improve the macroeconomic policy framework, re-align relative prices and reduce distortions, liberalize markets and encourage the private sector. However, the relentless decline of per capita income in no less than 30 member States cried out for a major stimulus to "kick-start" the long-awaited economic recovery. He stressed that African countries were undergoing transitions from war to peace; from unaccountable governance to democracy and respect for human rights; from centralized economic management to competitive market economies; and from modes of production that destroyed fragile ecosystems to sustainable development.

211. Capacity building was to be seen in the context of these transitions. The Executive Secretary cautioned Africans and their external partners against regarding Africa's transitions as cost-free. He discussed the findings of a recent simulation study by ECA to estimate the order of magnitude of domestic and external financial requirements to sustain capacity building in its present member States. Over the 10-year period 1995-2005, gross domestic investment in the Commission's 52 member States to sustain the projected average annual growth rate of 6 per cent would need to amount to about US$1,674 billion. Almost 75 per cent of this capital investment would have to come from domestic sources. The balance of the resources, amounting to about $434 billion, would have to be forthcoming from external sources, if capacity building was to take place at all, especially in the areas of physical infrastructures and production plant.

212. Furthermore, a huge amount of resources amounting to about $435 billion would be required over the period 1995 to 2005 to service Africa's external debt. The Executive Secretary noted that this was roughly equal to the volume of external resources needed to cover Africa's investment minus the domestic savings gap. This indicated that more needed to be done by African countries' partners to reduce their bilateral debt stock, through a generous and early application of the Trinidad Terms. As for multilateral debt, innovative and flexible solutions were needed to ease the burden of this category while maintaining African countries' access to multilateral finance flows. For countries like Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria, with heavy exposure to private debt obligations, initiatives such as those implemented for Mexico should be worked out to reduce African countries' debt stock and debt-servicing burden and commit new badly needed resources to stimulate recovery.

213. The Executive Secretary observed that substantial net external financial transfers to Africa would be required to sustain growth through capacity building. This meant that greater moral and material support needed to be extended to Africa by the external bilateral and multilateral partners over a period of two to three decades when the African countries would be strengthening their capacities to participate more fully in the competitive global economy. African countries, on their part, needed to do their utmost to target and attract flight capital back to Africa, foreign direct investment and portfolio flows, long-term bank lending and other private flows and short-term lines of credit. It was also necessary to forge strong South-South official and private sector economic relations while working hard to expand the traditional North-South relations. It was very important for African countries to strengthen their institutional capacities for the management of external resource flows and all identifiable risks attached to them.

214. Concluding, the Executive Secretary stressed that the vision of a dynamic, prosperous and peaceful Africa could not be dismissed out of hand. This was the lesson to be learned from the experience of the people of South Africa, whose sheer physical endurance and stubborn hope was symbolized in President-elect, Nelson Mandela, who was due to become his country's first democratically elected leader after serving 27 years of a life sentence for his struggle against apartheid. He expressed happiness that the Republic of South Africa was due to return to the fold of African nations. He declared that the Joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat saw the arrival of the new South Africa as the end of the era of Africa's political liberation and the beginning of the era of economic and social liberation from poverty to sustained growth and prosperity. This was the vision of Africa for which ECA was prepared to work.

215. The Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, reminded the participants that during its 35 years of service to Africa, under the leadership of distinguished sons of this continent, the Economic Commission for Africa endeavoured to provide assistance and support to African countries in their efforts towards economic and social development. He paid tribute to Mr. Robert Gardiner, former Executive Secretary of ECA, an illustrious son of Africa, who passed away a few days before. Mr. Gardiner led ECA in its formative years and provided it with a vision and determination to pursue its objectives. Africa owed a debt of gratitude to him for his indefatigable efforts in defending the cause of the continent. He pointed out that as ECA celebrated its thirty-fifth anniversary, there were important developments taking place in the continent, some of them were positive and many were a cause of concern. On the positive side, he pointed out the ongoing developments in the new South Africa which was emerging after a long and difficult struggle, as the result of the struggle and sacrifices of the oppressed people of that part of the continent and the active support of Africa as a whole and the international community.

216. The rest of Africa, the Secretary-General said, was now looking forward to the establishment of a democratic government and the emergence of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa which would soon take its rightful place in the African family of nations and in the international community. Africa was also confident that the new South Africa would constitute an important asset for the continent in its efforts towards development. It was also Africa's confident hope that South Africa which had been for so long a source of destabilization, would henceforth be an important factor of peace, stability and security in the continent.

217. Africa was also encouraged by the steady progress in the process of peaceful transition towards further democratization and popular participation in the continent. There was also the increasing awareness in the countries of the need to protect and promote human rights as well as the encouraging positive steps taken by member States in that direction. Africa still had a long way to go considering the enormity of the task ahead, However, it should be recognized that serious efforts were being made by African countries in the right direction in the spirit of solidarity and reconciliation. It was this spirit which guided the Heads of State and Government when they decided in Cairo, last year, to address decisively the complex issue of conflicts in the continent and to establish a Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution. By establishing this Mechanism, African leaders endowed the continental organization with an instrument for peace and demonstrated Africa's new resolve to assume its primary responsibility in efforts aimed at putting an end to conflicts in Africa. In order to assist OAU to confront the challenges of conflict, African leaders had also established the OAU Peace Fund. It was his hope that this Fund, which was already operative, would have the full support not only of African States and the international community but also the support of ordinary Africans and men and women of goodwill the world over.

218. The Secretary-General pointed out that the signing of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community in Abuja in June 1991 was yet another positive step in Africa's quest for economic development, cooperation and integration. He took the opportunity to inform the Conference that the required number of ratifications by member States had been attained last month with the deposition of the thirty-fifth instrument of ratification. The Treaty would enter into force within the next few days, thus paving the way for its implementation. That would require the full mobilization and commitment of the OAU Secretariat in collaboration with its partners of the Joint Secretariat, namely ECA and ADB. It would also require, in particular, close cooperation between OAU and the regional economic communities which constitute the pillars on which the African Economic Community would be built.

219. The Secretary-General reiterated that international political and economic relations had undergone serious and profound changes in the past few years. The world was now a unipolar world with a single political and economic ideology. The protagonists of that new ideology were determined to shape the world in their image. Unfortunately, Africa did not figure prominently on their agenda. That was clearly demonstrated in the onward-looking policies of these countries, their concentration on the establishment and strengthening of their economic groupings, their action as developed countries to take decisions affecting the whole world economy. They were doing that in their perceived self-interest and they could not be blamed for that. Africa continued to lament the lack of international understanding and cooperation. It was high time it was realized that Africa had to fend for itself if it was to be relevant in the new world order based on competition.

220. It was important to stress that the Treaty was not an exclusive affair of the OAU Secretariat or the Joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat or the African Governments who signed and ratified it. It was an affair of the African peoples themselves. It was therefore imperative that every government take all necessary measures to involve all segments of the society in the Community affairs through popularization, information and mobilization so that this formidable African challenge could be met.

221. The Secretary-General pointed out that the current economic situation of the continent was a cause of great concern. SAPs, the crushing burden

of the debt, the collapse of commodity prices and the African economies had rendered African people poorer in terms of per capital income and quality of life than they were after the first decade of independence; health, education, infrastructure and in production, capacity have been eroded. African leaders should stop and ask themselves why this paradox of abject poverty in the midst of all these riches. African leaders had a responsibility to themselves and future generations of Africans to resolve this paradox and release the creative energies of its people to contribute fully to their own development and well-being. Top priority should be given in this process to food security so as not to continue to rely on food aid and food imports which are consuming a large part of meagre export earnings. No country could consider itself free until it had the wherewithal to provide the basic needs of its people.

222. In conclusion, the Secretary-General invited participants to make this session a turning point where Africa moved from the domain of words to that of action. It was his ardent hope that member States would translate their commitments in this Conference and in the Abuja Treaty into concrete national priorities and programmes for the transformation of their countries and Africa as a whole.

223. In his statement, Mr. Jean-Claude Milleron, United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis (DESIPA), reported that DESIPA was established to serve as a global think-tank in the economic and social fields and to undertake activities for economic and social development. With regard to policy analysis, the units within the Department had conducted macroeconomic analysis and projections for long-term planning. The work carried out on Africa was done in close collaboration with ECA.

224. The Under-Secretary-General pointed out that we lived in a paradoxical world, when the hopes of the post-cold war era were juxtaposed with the despair of fratricidal wars, deepening poverty and marginalization, particularly in Africa. The SAPs that African countries had embarked on had achieved only modest results. Even in those cases where performance had been encouraging, the social and economic costs had been high. He expressed his belief that there was hope for Africa. Africa had great resources and great culture. In the past, Africa had produced leaders that won its political independence. Democracy was embodied in its history. These factors offered hope for Africa's future.

225. The Under-Secretary-General noted that while Africa must assume responsibility for its economic recovery, it was equally imperative that the world community continued to recognize that many African countries required substantial catalytic support to enable them to achieve self-sustained growth. It was also essential that Africa's debt issue be considered together with the issue of financial resources necessary for Africa's economic recovery and development. The Secretary-General had asked the Panel of High-Level Personalities on African Development to advise him on concrete measures to enhance African development, for innovative approaches for dealing with Africa's indebtedness. He said that priority should be given by Africa's development partners to assisting African countries trying to expand and diversify exports. He reported that the Secretary-General accorded great importance to the creation of an African commodity diversification fund to be located in ADB that would promote diversification of production and new marketing opportunities.

226. The Under-Secretary-General underlined that Africa should be able to mobilize more domestic resources to finance investments and development by encouraging private sector development. Measures to be taken should include reforms of the financial sector in order to improve the efficiency of intermediation and the allocation of investments. Africa would continue to obtain foreign resources if it demonstrated to the world community its own vigorous determination to mobilize its own sizeable resources in an efficient and effective manner. He reported that his Department had recently launched a project on a United Nations economic and social information system and called for closer cooperation with the regional commissions. The United Nations Statistical Commission was also involved in global statistical development on topics such as the measurement of poverty and the informal economy. He commended ECA's initiative to develop, jointly with its member States, a Pan-African Development Information System (PADIS).

227. In her statement, the Assistant Administrator and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, Ms. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, congratulated the staff of ECA on the occasion of the thirty-fifth anniversary for their dedication and commitment to the cause of African development. She expressed the confidence that with a collective resolve to meet those challenges, African development ultimately would succeed. She emphasized that the challenges ahead should not be taken for granted, nor should the dynamics of the changes in global realities which were unfolding, changes which were so rapid that there was hardly any time to understand, let alone develop appropriate responses to them. The end of the cold war had been greeted, she said, with a sigh of relief and the end of the rivalry between East and West had been welcomed. The demise of communism and the globalization of the market economy represented major steps forward in promoting world developments but the change was sudden, and the resulting economic and social dislocations catastrophic. Never in the history of the world had there been so much human suffering on so large a scale, in the absence of a global war, as the world was witnessing today.

228. The Assistant Administrator pointed out that few regions in the world, at a similar stage of development, were able to make such rapid social gains for their people as did Africa in the 1960s when primary school enrolment nearly doubled, mortality rates dropped and economies grew rapidly. These achievements were unfortunately, not sustained. Decline in GDP growth, on the one hand, and increase in population, on the other, implied that the average African was worse off in 1990 than he or she was in 1960, in real per capita income terms. Other indicators are equally grim. At the same time foreign debt absorbed more than one third of export earnings as Africa continued to experience deteriorating terms of trade and little growth in aid flows. The disappointing result of the recently concluded Uruguay Round would add more pressures to the situation thereby underlining the need for urgent support for the proposed diversification fund for African export commodities.

229. The Assistant Administrator said that in an effort to help African countries to formulate such a vision, UNDP, together with ADB, the World Bank and several partners in the donor community, were cooperating with a number of governments to draw up national long-term perspective strategies defining African development over a 25-year horizon. This led UNDP in November 1987 to launch the social dimensions of adjustment project as a response to the one overwhelming force of structural adjustment and stabilization that had characterized African economies in the 1980s. This response recognized that there were heavy social and political costs of structural adjustment and since the SDA initiative had no noticeable effect on the design of SAPs, UNDP was once again looking for new approaches and new directions. This was enshrined in a new development paradigm called sustainable human development which placed poverty-sensitive economic reform measures at centre stage. Sustainable human development was pro-poor, pro-nature, pro-jobs and pro-women.

230. The Assistant Administrator commended ECA for the intellectual leadership which it had shown in formulating initiatives such as the "African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation" and the "African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes" which embody the principles of sustainable human development. These con-cepts needed now to be put into practice for it was only then that they would be of value to Africa.

231. The Assistant Administrator said that, as a technical cooperation agency, through its technical assistance programme of skills provision and enhancement, UNDP from its second cycle (1977-1981) onwards had cooperated with ECA in the areas of subregional and regional integration, food production and food security, development of human resources, science and technology and development administration and management. During the third cycle (1982-1986), initiatives in the areas of information systems and transport and communications were jointly launched through the PADIS and United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa projects. In the fourth cycle (1987-1991), ECA and UNDP stressed, once again, economic cooperation and integration as well as food and agriculture, trade and industry, energy, water and a continuation of transport and communications, management and public administration. As for the current fifth cycle (1992-1996), the programme of collaboration was focused on regional cooperation and integration, long-term strategic planning and human development. She pointed out that UNDP's Regional Bureau for Arab States and Europe, which was responsible for country and inter-country activities in the Arab countries in the African region, namely Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Somalia, the Sudan and Tunisia, committed itself to continue further collaboration and coordination with both ECA and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in the formulation and implementation of regional and country programmes. The three parts of the areas of focus of the Third Inter-Country Programme (1994-1996) for the region were also sustainable human development, economic integration and trade and sustainable energy.

232. The Assistant Administrator said in conclusion that the theme and focus of this Conference, "Building critical capacities in Africa for accelerated growth and sustainable development", was thus appropriate and timely. She noted that after a long career of service to African development, in both the public and private sector, there is one thing that is now manifestly clear. A new breed of Africans, the young and dynamic African professionals, were now in charge; they were unabashedly and unapologetically calling for an African development agenda conceived by, delivered by and beneficial to Africa. Here lay Africa's hope, from henceforth comes Africa's changed destiny.

233. Ambassador Paul Marc-Henry, a national of France, spoke on Africa's socio-economic development problem in the context of increasing unemployment affecting the population as a whole, and in particular, the youth. He observed that although Africa was facing tremendous difficulties, it had made efforts towards self-reliant development. He deplored problems of capital flight from Africa to developed countries. This compounded Africa's efforts to accelerate the development of the continent. He observed that Africa had been given false promises of financial resources assistance by some development partners. He said that Africa had not been given the assistance it deserved. As Africa's economic situation was getting worse, he urged for concrete measures to address the unemployment problem in view of the increasing population.

234. Ambassador Yaw Turkson, a Ghana national, addressed the Conference. He outlined the origins and creation of the Economic Commission for Africa. He recalled his participation in debates in New York during 1957-1958 on the creation of ECA when there were eight independent African States in the continent (Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, the United Arab Republic, the Sudan and Tunisia). These countries prepared a resolution which was presented to the Economic and Social Council by Ghana on behalf of these countries to establish ECA. There was resistance from the major countries and yet regional commissions were in existence in the other regions. However, the struggle was won and ECA came into existence in 1958. Another problem which was also encountered but overcome in the negotiations leading to the creation of ECA was the question of adding the social development dimension to the terms of reference of ECA.

235. Ambassador Turkson thus viewed 1958 as a historical year and expressed gratitude to be associated with the thirty-fifth anniversary of ECA. He recalled that he started coming to ECA to discuss Africa's socio-economic problems in 1960. Ambassador Turkson emphasized that social consequences of development would become more important in the next 35 years.

236. Reflecting on the last 35 years, he recalled that emphasis of the Commission was on action-oriented development strategies. He appealed for reviewing the priorities in Africa's development. The issues to be given priority should include the debt problem. In addition, he pointed out that Africa should review critically international development assistance. He stressed that Africa should itself make constructive contribution to its development. In this context, he noted, there was need for unity and commitment through economic integration.

237. Mr. Augustin Frederic Kodock, Minister of State for Planning and Territorial Development of Cameroon, Chairman of the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers, expressed thanks to the participants for their attendance at the meeting. He also thanked the secretariat for the excellent work and documentation for the Conference. Expressing appreciation for the various statements made at the opening of the session, he underscored the importance of the Conference keynote address by H.E. Alhaji Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, President of the Republic of the Gambia. He noted that the address had raised very important questions relating to promoting the socio-economic development of Africa. He observed that there was awareness among member States of the prevailing socio-economic difficulties facing Africa.

238. The outgoing Chairman then addressed the debt problem which had been discussed at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development held in October 1993. He expressed gratitude to the Government of Japan which had financed the participation of African countries in that meeting. He regretted, however, that decisions by Africa's development partners had yet to produce tangible results on Africa's external debt and other issues. He reminded the international community to be aware that Africa's recovery required material assistance.

239. Turning to the member States, he noted that 30 years after independence, the political systems in some countries were yet to evolve into strong democracies. He therefore called for the continuation of democratic reforms and freedoms managed by Africans themselves. The African people should have a voice in the decision-making processes in their countries.

240. He noted that Africa was rich in natural resources, but the continent needed to use its people and institutions more effectively to exploit and develop these resources for the benefit of its people. He therefore called on African countries to have confidence in themselves and to define their own future and work together towards their development through which Africa would be able to forge ahead to take its rightful position in the world and regain its dignity.

*General debate: ECA at 35; Perspective of Africa's socio-economic development; building critical capacities in Africa for accelerated growth and sustainable development* (agenda item 5)

241. Several participants and observers, including representatives of United Nations agencies, regional and international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, participated in the general debate.

242. Participants paid tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Robert Gardiner, Executive Secretary of ECA from 1963-1975, who passed away on 13 April 1994. They noted that Mr. Gardiner led ECA in the formative years of the institution. He gave the best of his life to building the Economic Commission for Africa and to laying the foundation for economic integration of the African continent.

243. In the context of the commemoration of the thirty-fifth anniversary of ECA during this session of the Conference, participants extended their congratulations to ECA. They paid special tribute to the founding fathers of ECA whose vision has guided the organization since inception. Participants said that the occasion of the thirty-fifth anniversary offered an excellent opportunity to reflect on the institution's performance in promoting socio-economic development in Africa. They observed that ECA was an African institution which had served African interests very well in the past. In this regard, it was observed that ECA had been instrumental not only in establishing several sub-

regional and regional institutions for economic development and integration, but also in articulating strategies for Africa's development. They expressed the hope that ECA's lessons from past experience would inform and guide a renewed dedication and successful tackling of the problems impeding rapid economic development of African countries and in playing a crucial, catalytic and supportive role in articulating Africa's interest in the future.

244. Participants underscored the timeliness, relevance and appropriateness of the Conference theme, "Building critical capacities in Africa for accelerated growth and sustained development". They noted that the rather limited results so far achieved from the economic reform programmes undertaken by member States was partly attributable to lack of critical capacities in many areas of economic management and development. Impetus for the theme was also provided by the changes which were taking place in the structure of the world economy which had heightened international competition.

245. The consensus of the Conference was that if African countries were to be set on the path of sustained growth in the twenty-first century, it would be necessary to sustain and enhance capacity building in the interlocking areas of human skills and talents development, strengthening national institutions and infrastructural development. It was emphasized that efforts at capacity building must address these three dimensions in each of the key priority areas, namely critical capacities in support of good governance, human rights, peace, security and political stability in Africa; critical capacities for effective socio-economic policy analysis and management; building and fully utilizing human capacities in Africa; developing entrepreneurial skills for public and private sector management; building and utilizing physical infrastructural capacities in Africa; capacities to exploit natural resources and diversify African economies into processing and manufacturing; strengthening capacities in support of food security and self-sufficiency; critical capacities for mobilization and efficient allocation of domestic and external financial resources.

246. Various delegations recalled the experiences of their countries in the priority areas of capacity building. They observed that African Governments had invested enormous amounts of resources in expanding access to education and health in the three decades since independence, and that remarkable gains had been made especially until the early 1980s. Since then, severe fiscal difficulties had caused a loss of momentum in many countries, giving rise to declining school enrolment and increased mortality and morbidity rates. Stressing that capacity building was an investment, participants emphasized the need to use the capacities already in place more effectively rather than simply building new ones. In this regard, the Conference expressed concern about the situation of the unemployed and underemployed youth. It was also observed that unconducive economic, social and political conditions had, in the past, given rise to the brain-drain through which Africa had lost some of its most precious human capital. Countries, particularly those recovering from the ravages of protracted war, did not find it easy to attract their skilled nationals back home from the diaspora.

247. With regard to the strengthening of institutions, participants reviewed the steps initiated in some African countries in recent years towards more accountable and democratic forms of governance as well as to foster the decentralization of political decision-making. Under a series of economic structural reform programmes, a number of member States also aimed at improving their socio-economic policy analysis and management, inter alia, by ensuring the availability of adequately trained civil servants. Bold reforms aimed at rising productivity by restructuring public enterprises and privatizing some of them, liberalizing markets, putting their financial sectors on a more sound footing and encouraging private sector growth in some countries had begun to yield fruit in the form of modestly high rates of economic growth. These gains were still fragile, however, as national economic performance still depended on the vagaries of the weather and external market conditions. Nevertheless, the participants underscored the absolute necessity of strengthening entrepreneurial capacities in Africa, especially small-scale enterprises and women entrepreneurs. The ingenuity and creativity of the African people was not in doubt. Indeed, there was general confidence that given an enabling environment, adequate reward and motivation, African entrepreneurs could be extremely effective.

248. Participants felt very strongly about the need to strengthen in African countries the productive capacities for collective food security and food self-sufficiency. The problem, however, needed to be tackled at the level of the individual family unit. Industrial capacities also needed to be developed and more efficiently utilized, with the aim of diversifying African countries' production and export base. To that end, the Conference encouraged the Secretary-General to press on with the establishment of the diversification facility for Africa's commodities, proposed under General Assembly resolutions 46/151 and 48/214 on the UN-NADAF, to be housed in ADB. That, together with the proposed national diversification councils, would play a catalytic role in the countries' economic diversification efforts. Participants were of the view that physical infrastructures in a well-maintained condition were essential to underpin productive capacities and international competitiveness. It was observed that infrastructures of African countries emerging from prolonged conflicts were in very bad shape, which made economic recovery difficult and reduced their capacity to absorb returnees. In all

such cases, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts backed by external partners were needed.

249. Participants expressed gratitude for official development assistance received from bilateral and multilateral external partners. The general view, however, was that it was insufficient in comparison to the massive capacity building task that the countries were faced with. The rich industrialized nations were urged to increase their contributions to ODA with the aim of approaching the target of 0.7 per cent of their GNP, as well as meeting the commitments that they had solemnly entered into under UN-NADAF. Participants were also of the view that it was necessary to re-evaluate the contribution and effectiveness of technical assistance in the building of critical capacities in Africa in the last three decades. New modalities were needed for the delivery of this form of assistance by bilateral and multilateral partners which made fuller use of and strengthened indigenous expertise and which were more sensitive to local opinion.

250. The regional cooperation approach to capacity building in Africa was stressed in the general debate. Nigeria, for example, invited African countries to make use of its universities (numbering over 30) in fields ranging from conventional courses to technical and vocational courses and its research institutions (about 20) in fields such as agriculture, food technology and socio-economic research. Egypt stated that its experts in various fields of science and technology, agriculture and medicine were at the disposal of its sister African States. Ghana and Uganda offered to share their experience gained so far in elaborating (with the help of the World Bank) comprehensive indicative programmes for building critical capacities in a number of priority areas which overlap the areas discussed at the twentieth meeting of the Conference of Ministers.

251. Several observers representing Africa's development partners also congratulated the Commission on the occasion of its thirty-fifth anniversary. They noted that the theme of the Conference was both important and timely. They reaffirmed the willingness of their governments to cooperate with the ECA secretariat and the member States of the Commission in endogenous capacity building, strengthening and efficient utilization of such capacities. They underscored the importance of both South-South and North-South cooperation in such endeavours.

252. With regard to the negative social effects of SAPs, some observers expressed the view that African countries should ensure that their programmes took into account the social dimension and were human-centred before they presented such programmes to financial institutions to negotiate loans and credits for funding. In this respect, African countries were encouraged to sharpen their negotiating capacities to ensure the inclusion of social aspects in SAPs.

253. Representatives of specialized agencies of the United Nations, African intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also identified themselves strongly with the theme of the Conference. They pledged to enhance their cooperation with African member States and offered to collaborate with the Commission in the specific capacity building fields of their mandate and competence.

254. Participants welcomed the coming into force of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. The Treaty was a bold step on the road to Africa's development. Subregional and regional integration was viewed as crucial in the light of the implementation of the Treaty.

255. In order to promote regional integration, the Conference considered the need to increase trade among African countries; improve transport and communications; develop agricultural and industrial infrastructure; improve the performance of the private sector, both formal and informal; implement joint projects and programmes including joint production of services and goods; establish peace and maintain stability. The importance of institutional capacity in this context was underscored. It was noted that the existing subregional organizations needed to be harmonized and rationalized so that they could effectively contribute to the implementation of the Treaty.

256. Regarding the issue on rationalization and harmonization of ECA-sponsored institutions, the Conference supported the objective of rationalization and harmonization of these institutions and emphasized that the need for rationalization and harmonization of these institutions was urgent. It was suggested that the ECA secretariat should hold further consultations with member States on this issue.

257. The importance of the relation between population and development was underscored, given the deterioration of African economies in view of growing population. Among the possible approaches in resolving population and development related issues should include improving the health and nutrition of the population and the general socio-economic conditions of the population, especially in rural areas and measures indicated in the Dakar/Ngor Declaration of Population, Family and Sustainable Development to moderate demographic trends without coercion. Responsible parenthood among couples was seen as of paramount importance.

258. The Conference noted with concern that the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations would, most probably, have dramatic consequences for African economies. African countries with less diversified and competitive economies would lose their share of the market owing to the erosion of the trade preferential treatment they enjoyed. In order to restore the temporary imbalances in their economies that would surely result from the rapid

liberalization of world trade, African countries should receive more assistance from the international community, especially from the developed countries. In this context, it was suggested that Africa should consider establishing a mechanism for articulating their negotiating positions in the Bretton Woods institutions and the newly formed World Trade Organization which would soon be operational.

259. The Conference noted that complementarity existed between trade and production activities and that the development of trade activities could encourage production activities. In that context, the Conference remarked that the best way for Africa to promote such activities was to encourage private entrepreneurship through small- and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) or the informal sector.

260. The Conference expressed concern at the persistence of armed conflicts, ethnic strife, periodic drought and famine, endemic poverty, ecological disasters, refugees and displaced persons, factors which continued to prevail in the continent resulting in enormous human loss and suffering, considerable social and economic infrastructural damage, brain-drain and general environmental degradation.

261. Participants noted with dismay that, according to UNHCR estimates, there were about 6 million refugees in Africa and 16 million internally displaced persons. To these figures one could add another unfortunate 1 million refugees as a result of the tragic events taking place in Rwanda. Over the last five years, UNHCR had spent nearly $1.2 billion to attend to the needs of refugees in Africa, a considerable amount of funds which did not include food supply from such institutions as WFP and other organizations, and immense material and support services by host countries. The Conference underlined that peace and political stability were the sine qua non for development; without peace, development was impossible, and without development, peace was not durable. It further noted OAU resolution 1040 calling for the integration of programmes for refugees, returnees and displaced persons into national plans to ensure sustainability and continuous funding. To reach this objective, the need for implementing the cross mandate concept was underlined.

262. The Conference noted with encouragement that the majority of African Governments were engaged in one form of transition or another: from war to peace; from unaccountable governance to democracy and respect for human rights; from State-dominated to market-based private sector-led economies; and from modes of production that created considerable damage to the environment to sustainable development. The implementation of all these changes needed the strengthening and building of critical and endogenous capacities, which would in turn enhance regional production, trade and consumption likely to enhance political stability, peace and security. The Conference underlined the need for increased domestic and international mobilization of resources for production, peace building, rehabilitation and critical capacity development in the African region.

263. The Conference paid tribute to the people of South Africa whose long and heroic struggle for liberation from the tyranny of apartheid was finally crowned with victory during the occasion of the Conference. It welcomed with joy the birth of a democratic popularly elected political system in the country, including the immense reconciliation that characterized the speeches of the significant leaders who would lead and/or influence events in the new country.

264. A representative of the ANC addressed the Conference. He expressed satisfaction for the opportunity given to him to address the Conference at a time when all South Africans had voted in their first multiracial elections. He thanked member States of the Commission for their support to liberation movements in the past.

265. The Conference further noted with profound satisfaction that at its next meeting in 1995, democratic South Africa would be an active and important participant. These developments were likely to enhance critical capacity building for economic cooperation and integration in southern Africa and the rest of the continent, in line with the current theme of the Conference.

266. Several participants called on ECA to expand and strengthen its technical assistance to member States in certain critical areas of national development. In particular, they stressed the need for ECA to assist in post-conflict peace-building efforts related to rehabilitation of economic and social infrastructures; devising measures of providing effective safety nets to cushion the impact of adjustment on vulnerable groups; and creating employment opportunities for youth so as to obviate any tendencies towards crime and criminal behaviour. More importantly, it was emphasized that ECA had an important role to play in building capacities of African countries, particularly in the priority areas of the theme. Participants also hoped that ECA would assist in mobilizing financial resources for the implementation of various aspects of their national capacity building programmes.

*Consideration of the report of the fifteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole* (agenda item 6)

267. The Chairman of the fifteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole presented the report of the Committee as well as the draft resolutions and declarations recommended by the Committee for adoption by the Conference of Ministers as contained in document

E/ECA/CM.20/37. The Conference took note of the presentation, examined in detail the report of the Committee as well as the draft resolutions and declarations and adopted them after making the necessary amendments. Resolution 19 (XV) on impact of devaluations on the African economies adopted by the fifth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, held on 1 and 2 March 1994 in Libreville, Gabon, was among the resolutions considered by the Conference of Ministers. The Conference decided to defer that resolution until the next meeting.

268. The report of the Committee, together with resolutions and declarations as amended, is contained in document E/ECA/CM.20/37/Rev.1. The Conference requested that in future the discussions on the TEPCOW report at the Ministerial meeting should be reflected in the report of the Conference.

*Any other business* (agenda item 7)

269. The proposal to change the name of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Africa was examined by the Conference. It observed that the issue was too important to be decided upon immediately. The Conference decided to take up the issue at a future meeting.

270. Delegations emphasized the need for the secretariat to make more efforts to ensure timely despatch of Conference documents to member States. That was important to enable the member States to subject the documents to indepth interdepartmental review at the national level and formulate position on such important issues that might be on the agenda of the Conference. In that connection, it was also observed that the agenda of the Conference had become too lengthy. As a result, participants had not been allowed sufficient time to hold discussions on the issues on the agenda. The need to reduce the items on the agenda was, therefore, strongly emphasized.

271. Given the need to ensure that ECA garners sufficient financial resources for the activities of the Commission, it was suggested that ECA should strengthen its relations with the African Group of the Fifth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and African members on the various governing boards of funding agencies of the United Nations. Through these contacts, the case for making additional financial resources available for ECA activities would be better appreciated.

*Date and venue and other matters related to the thirtieth session of the Commission/twenty-first meeting of the Conference of Ministers* (agenda item 8)

272. In the absence of an invitation from any member State, at the moment, the Conference decided that its next meeting would be held at the headquarters of the Commission. The dates of the next meeting would be established on the basis of consultations between the Executive Secretary and the Chairman of the Bureau of the present session.

*Consideration and adoption of the report* (agenda item 9)

273. The Conference adopted the present report together with resolution 793 (XXIX) on "Strengthening and developing capacities in support of regional seed pathology in Africa".

*Closure of the meeting* (agenda item 10)

274. A message of goodwill and congratulation to ECA on the occasion of its thirty-fifth anniversary sent by President Mario Soares of Portugal was read by the Executive Secretary.

275. The Executive Secretary also read the Final Communique of the Conference, which is attached as annex IV to this report.

276. In his closing remarks, the Executive Secretary observed that the twentieth meeting of the Conference of Ministers had been historic in two significant respects: first, the Conference had used the occasion to mark the end of the thirty-fifth year of the Commission; and second, the occasion had been used to define one of the most critical ingredients now needed to put Africa on a high path of growth, transformation and sustainable development, namely building and utilizing critical capacities. The Executive Secretary reiterated his commitment to strengthening the secretariat of the Commission and hoped he could count on the support of member States to enhance the role of the Commission as an instrument for effective policy change in the hands of member States.

277. The Chairperson thanked the participants for their effective participation at this important session, which coincided with the end of the thirty-fifth year of ECA. The Chairperson also thanked the members of the secretariat for their diligence and hard work in servicing the Conference.

278. She then declared the meeting closed.

## CHAPTER IV

## LIST OF RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND DECLARATIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS AT ITS TWENTIETH MEETING


| Number | Title | Page |
|---|---|---|
| | A. Resolutions | |
| 770 (XXIX) | Effective implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) | 51 |
| 771 (XXIX) | Building critical capacities for accelerated growth and sustained development | 52 |
| 772 (XXIX) | Preparations for the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements | 53 |
| 773 (XXIX) | Preparation for the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, Yokohama, Japan, 23-27 May 1994 | 54 |
| 774 (XXIX) | Strategy and Programme of Action for marine/ocean development in Africa | 55 |
| 775 (XXIX) | Establishment of a trust fund for peace-building, post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and development | 56 |
| 776 (XXIX) | Development and strengthening of the Economic Commission for Africa's programme activities in the field of natural resources, energy and marine affairs | 57 |
| 777 (XXIX) | Enhancing the capacity of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) | 58 |
| 778 (XXIX) | The situation in the least developed countries | 58 |
| 779 (XXIX) | Strengthening the operational capacity of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa | 59 |
| 780 (XXIX) | Implementation of the programme for the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1993-2002) | 59 |
| 781 (XXIX) | Development of the private sector for the accelerated implementation of the programme for the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and beyond | 61 |
| 782 (XXIX) | Development of basic industries for the structural transformation of African economies | 61 |
| 783 (XXIX) | The Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations | 62 |
| 784 (XXIX) | Africa and the crisis in international commodity agreements | 63 |
| 785 (XXIX) | Promotion and expansion of intra-African trade | 63 |
| 786 (XXIX) | Strategies for Revitalization, Recovery and Growth of Africa's Trade in the 1990s and Beyond | 64 |
| 787 (XXIX) | Science and technology for development | 65 |
| 788 (XXIX) | Establishment of an African Monetary Fund | 65 |

| Number | Title | Page |
|---|---|---|
| 789 (XXIX) | Strengthening information systems for Africa's recovery and sustainable development | 65 |
| 790 (XXIX) | Capacity building for statistical development in Africa | 67 |
| 791 (XXIX) | Change of name of the African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW) to African Centre for Women (ACW) | 67 |
| 792 (XXIX) | An integrated approach to women's empowerment: The Kampala Action Plan on Women and Peace: Violation of women's human rights; and women's economic empowerment | 68 |
| 793 (XXIX) | Strengthening and developing capacities in support of regional seed pathology in Africa | 70 |
| | B Decisions | |
| DEC.1 (XXIX) | Revised mandate of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers | 70 |
| DEC.2 (XXIX) | Programme of work of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), 1994-1996 | 71 |
| | C. Declarations | |
| DCL.1 (XXIX) | Declaration on the re-integration of new democratic South Africa into Africa | 78 |
| DCL.2 (XXIX) | Declaration on a human development plan of action for Africa | 78 |

## CHAPTER IV

## RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS AND DECLARATIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS AT ITS TWENTIETH MEETING

### A. Resolutions

770 (XXIX). *Effective implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF)*

The Conference of Ministers,

Bearing in mind its memorandum to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the United Nations General Assembly on the Final Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD),

Recalling General Assembly resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991 and its annexes on the assessment of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, respectively,

Realizing that while during the period of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 African countries managed to fulfil many of their undertakings, the donor community did not make available the resources which they had promised,

Noting that the first two years of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s have been beset by inadequate resources from the international donor community,

Mindful also of the fact that Africa's social and economic development is primarily the responsibility of African Governments and people, in concert with the international community who have accepted the principle of shared responsibility and full partnership with Africa,

Bearing in mind the reports of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on "Preliminary consideration of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s"[1] on "Need for and feasibility of the establishment of a diversification fund for Africa's commodities"[2] and on "Financial resource flows to Africa"[3] submitted to the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly,

Having considered also the secretariat's report on the implementation of the New Agenda[4] and the document on programme evaluation in the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa[5] which includes the progress report on the in-depth evaluation of Programme 45,[6]

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 48/214 of 23 December 1993 on the New Agenda which, inter alia, reiterated the expectations of the New Agenda and the priority attached to it,

1. Notes with appreciation the sustained efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to ensure that Africa's social and economic development remains on the agenda of the international community throughout the 1990s;

2. Reaffirms the commitment of African Governments to the long-term sustainable socio-economic development and growth of the region through the successful implementation of the policies and priorities of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;

3. Commends African Governments for their demonstrated commitment to promote economic development by their adoption of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community whose objectives are in consistent with those of the New Agenda;

4. Recognizes the importance of the regional dimension in Africa's social and economic development and the potential contributions of the New Agenda in fostering it;

5. Affirms the need to strengthen collaboration between the Organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa in undertaking actions to promote the long-term socio-economic development of the region;

6. Notes with appreciation the goodwill of the Government of Japan in convening the International Conference on African Development, at Tokyo on 5 and 6 October 1993, and in the Tokyo Declaration adopted by that Conference;

7. Urges all African Governments to continue to take appropriate policy measures and actions for the sustained socio-economic development and growth of the region;

8. Renews its call to Africa's development partners, including the United Nations agencies, organizations and programmes and the international community at large, to fulfil their commitments to support Africa's efforts, particularly in relation to

resource flows to the region, the enhancement of Africa's access to markets and debt relief;

9. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to favourably consider, in the framework of the restructuring of the Secretariat, possible institutional arrangements, including additional resources and other means to significantly strengthen capacity at the Economic Commission for Africa to fulfil its coordination, follow-up and monitoring role for the implementation of the New Agenda;

10. Further requests the Executive Secretary to closely monitor the implementation of the New Agenda, especially those aspects related to the mobilization of resources, and to report thereon to the next Conference of Ministers.

291st meeting,
4 May 1994.

771 (XXIX). *Building critical capacities for accelerated growth and sustained development*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recognizing the strategic importance of a comprehensive development of critical capacities in the areas of human resources, institutions and physical infrastructures in meeting the development challenges of Africa in the 1990s and into the twenty-first century,

Further recognizing that the comprehensive development of these capacities is of fundamental importance for achieving the strategic objectives of Africa's economic development in the 1990s as set out in its resolution 742 (XXVIII) of 4 May 1993,

Aware that without the development and utilization of critical capacities the processes of development, including technological development, cannot be internalized, nor can long-term development itself be sustainable,

Further aware that a comprehensive capacity building programme cannot be sustainable without a strong national leadership and management with vision, sound policies, national ownership of the design and management of the programme and appropriate incentive structures,

Having noted the efforts of member States in building and improving their critical capacities for socio-economic development as well as the various efforts and initiatives of the Commission to promote human development and the development and strengthening of institutional and infrastructural capacities over the last three decades, particularly in the Monrovia Declaration of Commitment on Guidelines and Measures for National and Collective Self-Reliance, the Lagos Plan of Action for the Economic Development of Africa, 1980-2000 and the Final Act of Lagos, the Khartoum Declaration Towards a Human-focused Approach to Socio-economic Recovery and Development in Africa, the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation as well as the various initiatives by the international community on behalf of Africa, in particular:

(a) the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD),

(b) the first and second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA I and II),

(c) the first and second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA I and II),

(d) the United Nations Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF),

(e) the Alma Ata Declaration on Health for All by the Year 2000,

(f) the Jomtien Declaration on Education for All by the Year 2000;

(g) the Dakar/Ngor Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development,

Convinced of the urgency to put in place a strategic agenda based on a comprehensive approach to the development and utilization, on a sustainable basis of capacities critical to Africa's recovery, accelerated growth and international competitiveness in the 1990s and beyond;

1. Endorses "A Framework Agenda for Building and Utilizing Critical Capacities in Africa: A Preliminary Report" which includes a "Proposed Regional Action Programme of Technical Cooperation in Capacity Building and Utilization in Africa" and which is a preliminary study and consensus framework embracing the key issues in capacity building and institutional development as well as the basis of a more detailed study to be presented at the 1995 meeting of the Conference of Ministers;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to undertake further studies aimed at strengthening the Framework Agenda on the basis of which detailed programmes of action in capacity building at the national, subregional and regional levels may be designed for implementation in the short and medium term;

3. Further requests the Executive Secretary to formulate a programme of support by Africa's development partners to reinforce and complement the efforts of member States in building and strengthening critical capacities for development in the medium and long term;

4. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to establish an appropriate mechanism to coordinate all activities leading to the preparation of the Action Programme;

5. Further calls upon the Executive Secretary, in close collaboration with all the relevant African intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions as well as United Nations agencies and international financial institutions, to assist member States to implement the regional component of the capacity-building programme as identified and recommended in the respective sector programmes, through the existing mechanisms for regional coordination among the agencies of the United Nations system and through the Joint ECA/OAU/ADB Secretariat;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary to sensitize all partners in development at the national, subregional, regional and international levels to the need for concerted efforts in the complex task of building and strengthening critical capacities in Africa;

7. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to take appropriate action to ensure the efficient and effective monitoring and evaluation of the programme at the regional level and consult with member States concerning the establishment or strengthening of mechanisms for the development, monitoring and evaluation of the programme at the national level in the most efficient and cost-effective manner;

8. Further calls upon the Executive Secretary to take urgent steps to prepare a financing plan for the implementation of the first phase of the programme for the period 1995-2005 and to hold consultations with bilateral and multilateral donors and development finance institutions aimed at mobilizing resources to complement the efforts of member States for the implementation of the first phase of the programme;

9. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the next Conference of Ministers on actions taken in fulfilment of the mandates as set out in this resolution.

291st meeting,
4 May 1994.

772 (XXIX). *Preparations for the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992 on the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

Considering that the Conference will be an important event in the United Nations activities aimed at sustainable development and adequate shelter for all and that it will contribute to attaining certain objectives of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Having considered the report of the secretariat on the preparations for Habitat II, including the outcome of the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference,

Emphasizing the importance of the regional dimension in the preparatory process of the Conference itself and beyond,

Recalling in this regard, the recommendations of the seventh meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment on Africa's preparations for Habitat II,

Recalling further resolution CM/Res.1469 (LVIII) of the fifty-eighth ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity on Habitat II,

Noting with satisfaction the joint efforts of the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements in the preparatory activities for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Africa,

1. Takes note of the report of the Economic Commission for Africa entitled "Preparations for the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements", which provides a very useful insight into the preparatory process;

2. Endorses the "Declaration of African Ministers responsible for Human Settlements on the Preparatory Process to the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)", which is a collective strategy for effective African participation in the above process;

3. Welcomes the statement by the Preparatory Committee for Habitat II at its first substantive session;

4. Calls upon all member States to effectively participate in the preparatory process of Habitat II, especially the timely preparation of national reports;

5. Invites all member States to approach the Habitat-II secretariat with respect to the assistance they require, taking into account the Preparatory Committee's recommendations on financing of the preparatory activities at national level;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary, in close collaboration with member States, to establish those mechanisms recommended by the Preparatory Committee:

(a) Coordinating and facilitating regional activities, including meetings;

(b) Enabling member States with limited institutional and financial capacity to participate effectively in the preparatory process and in the Conference;

(c) Liaison and preparation of a regional report on the state of human settlements, highlighting cross-sectoral and cross-country concerns;

(d) Contributing to the formulation of the Global Plan of Action and the Statement of Principles and Commitments;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in cooperation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), to ensure that the necessary consultations and exchange of experiences among African countries takes place.

291st meeting,
4 May 1994.

773 (XXIX). *Preparation for the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, Yokohama, Japan, 23-27 May 1994*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 48/188 of 21 December 1993 which decided to convene the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in Yokohama, Japan from 23 to 27 May 1994,

Also recalling all relevant resolutions of the Organization of African Unity,

Noting with appreciation the Mid-Term Report for Africa on the Implementation of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction,

Appreciative of the close collaboration between the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the World Health Organization, the Organization of African Unity and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in the preparation of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction,

Recognizing the very great importance of natural disaster reduction in the pursuit of sustainable development and poverty alleviation in Africa,

Further recognizing the importance and urgency of strengthening substantive cooperation between Africa's relevant national, subregional and regional institutions and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, particularly the Secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in order to enhance capacity building for the reduction and mitigation of natural disasters and promote sustainable development,

Convinced of the cost effectiveness of investment in preventive activities for those avoidable hazards and the benefits of mitigation for those unavoidable ones,

Taking note with appreciation of the efforts of member States in establishing the necessary strategies and infrastructure for the implementation of the International Decade,

1. Takes note of the Mid-Term Report and commends all Member States, subregional and regional institutions which contributed to its preparation by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the Economic Commission for Africa;

2. Adopts the African Common Position for the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction to be held in Yokohama, Japan from 23 to 27 May 1994;

3. Urges Member States to strengthen cooperation among themselves in fostering the objective and goals of the International Decade, particularly the recommendation of the World Conference and to pursue the African Strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21;

4. Encourages African countries to promote cooperation in natural disaster reduction at the bilateral, subregional and regional levels;

5. Further encourages the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, in particular the Secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, to intensify its efforts in cooperation with all Africa's development partners to support the efforts of member States, particularly within the framework of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, national, subregional and regional research and development institutions and non-governmental organizations to reduce the impact and minimize the effects of natural disasters on Africa;

6. Invites African countries to participate actively in the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in Yokohama with a view to defending the African common position and securing the support of the international community, more particularly Africa's bilateral and multilateral development partners in sustaining the efforts made by African countries to reduce natural disasters and mitigate their effects;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, working in close collaboration with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the Organization of African Unity, the World Health Organization and other interested agencies, to harmonize the African common position with the

mid-term report and to proceed with the implementation of the International Decade, taking into account the African common position;

8. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in close collaboration with the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs, to submit a progress report on the implementation of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction to the twenty-first meeting of the Conference of Ministers.

291st meeting,
4 May 1994.

774 (XXIX). *Strategy and Programme of Action for marine/ocean development in Africa*

The Conference of Ministers,

Aware that the oceans and the seas surrounding the continent of Africa and its off-shore island countries have abundant living and non-living resources which when properly explored and exploited could significantly contribute to the socio-economic development of the African region,

Mindful of the fact that while Africa has been net importer of food, the living resources of its oceans/seas could significantly enhance its food security and self-sufficiency, alleviate poverty and increase the income of the African people,

Cognizant of the deep interest and commitment of African countries in the sustainable exploration and exploitation of these resources, as well as in establishing an equitable international order for the management of the earth's oceans and seas,

Recalling the fact that the largest single regional group of countries (Africa represented 27 out of 61 countries) which have so far ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea are from the African region,

Aware that the Convention provides the African region the opportunities and challenges to benefit tremendously from its implementation,

Further aware that the Convention makes provisions for the land-locked countries to benefit equally from its implementation,

Taking note with satisfaction that the Convention will enter into force on 16 November 1994, and that thereafter, the International Seabed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea will be established,

Taking into account the Strategy and Programme of Action by the Regional Leadership Seminar on Marine/Ocean Affairs in Africa, organized by the Economic Commission for Africa and the International Ocean Institute which was held from 28 March to 2 April 1994, as contained in document E/ECA/CM.20/34,

Appreciative of the major leadership role that the Commission has taken in promoting the Convention among African countries as well as in promoting marine/ocean resources development in Africa,

1. Calls upon all African States to:

(a) Ratify the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and enact laws claiming jurisdiction over maritime zones as provided for in the Convention;

(b) Establish a coordinating mechanism for marine affairs to be established by respective States;

(c) Establish or strengthen their national framework for policy formulation in the areas of food, energy and materials so as to give the needed thrust and emphasis to the rational development and optimal utilization of their marine resources; in particular, the policy framework should accord high priority to marine science and technology and the development of the necessary human and institutional infrastructure;

(d) Strengthen their capacity to survey, explore and exploit their marine resources by integrating their plans for adequate human resources and institutional development with their economic and social development plans;

2. Further calls upon all African coastal States to:

(a) Establish a legal framework for the rational and effective utilization of the extended maritime zones for a sustainable development;

(b) Establish baselines as well as the coordinates of the extended maritime jurisdictions;

(c) Enter into dialogue with their neighbours so as to establish the boundaries of their maritime zones, keeping in mind the concepts of joint development zones and joint management zones;

(d) Establish or strengthen the necessary machinery and services for:

(i) the full and rational exploitation of their fishery resources;

(ii) the exploration and exploitation of their marine mineral and energy resources;

(iii) the development of maritime transport and communication system;

(iv) the development of coastal areas and the development of tourism;

(v) the protection and conservation of the marine and coastal environment and ecosystem.

3. Requests the Economic Commission for Africa and international, regional and subregional organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations to strengthen collaboration among themselves for promotion of marine/ocean resources development in general and, in particular in the following ways:

(a) Mobilize resources from international funding agencies and other global and regional development partners for the implementation of regional, subregional and national projects in areas such as coastal zone management, island development and capacity building in the ocean sector which could be presented for funding;

(b) Increase awareness at regional, subregional and national levels of the potential of marine/ocean resources and to promote the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

(c) Sensitize high-level policy makers from African land-locked countries to these provisions of the Convention that are of benefit to their countries;

(d) Examine the feasibility of establishing regional or subregional monitoring, surveillance and detection systems by utilizing remote sensing devices;

(e) Explore the feasibility of strengthening or establishing regional and/or subregional institutions for marine/ocean affairs for them to be basically self-financing, especially in the areas of capacity building including human resources development, technology acquisition and surveys;

(f) Assist in the preparation of legislation/regulation/guidelines in the marine sector which could be of use as blueprints to member States;

(g) Collect and disseminate relevant information on marine/ocean affairs for use by member States.

291st meeting,
4 May 1994.

775 (XXIX). *Establishment of a trust fund for peace-building, post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and development*

The Conference of Ministers,

Grateful for the initiatives taken by the international community and the various agencies in the United Nations system to extend special technical and material assistance to African countries confronted with difficult problems of post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and development,

Realizing that such initiatives should be translated into long-term activities designed to accelerate and sustain the development of the distressed countries in order to maintain the three continuum from:

(a) Emergency, rehabilitation and reconstruction to development (in order to maintain a link between short-, medium- and long-term development processes),

(b) Central administration to popular participation (in order to foster the democratization process via decentralization of policy, institutions and management),

(c) National to subregional to regional levels to accelerate the crucial subregional cooperation and integration within the spirit of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community,

Understanding that peace-building in Africa ought to rest upon a foundation of economic and social development,

Recognizing the fact that such a development strategy of a long-term nature necessitates the mobilization of increased resources,

Recognizing further that the United Nations can serve, but not substitute, the efforts of African members who must be ready for the serious challenges and opportunities that lie in the decades ahead,

Noting that the efforts already embarked upon in this respect, though encouraging, have to be sustained by adequate resources,

Noting further that the Economic Commission for Africa has proposed the establishment of a trust fund for assistance to the affected countries in support of their post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and development efforts,

Cognizant of the fact that the task of emergency relief and development including disaster preparedness, prevention and management is the primary responsibility of the African countries themselves,

Bearing in mind "An Agenda for Peace" of the United Nations Secretary-General and the Organization of African Unity Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution,

Recognizing that the continuing cycle of conflicts in Africa has resulted in widespread displacement of populations, within and across national

borders, fatalities and stagnation of socio-economic development,

1. Welcomes the proposal regarding the establishment of the fund as this is believed to contribute to and facilitate ongoing efforts by the international community to alleviate the countries' post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and development;

2. Calls upon all African member States, friendly donor countries and financial and economic institutions to appreciate the difficult post-conflict situations facing the countries and to extend their generous contribution to the establishment of the fund;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to institute such mechanisms as are required to ensure the establishment, proper management and utilization of the fund;

4. Urges the Executive Secretary of the Commission to further enhance collaboration with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity in the implementation of this resolution;

5. Calls upon the Executive Secretary of the Commission to develop relevant strategies for the implementation of "An Agenda for Peace" in an African context in cooperation with the United Nations system.

291st meeting,
4 May 1994.

776 (XXIX). *Development and strengthening of the Economic Commission for Africa's programme activities in the field of natural resources, energy and marine affairs*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977, 33/202 of 29 January 1979, 44/211 of 22 December 1989, 46/235 of 13 April 1992, 47/199 of 22 December 1992, 48/162 of 20 December 1993, Economic and Social Council resolutions 1987/10 of 26 May 1987, 1989/6 of 22 May 1989 and Commission resolutions 572 (XXI) of 21 April 1986 and 602 (XXII) of 27 April 1987,

Endorsing the findings and conclusions of self-evaluation of the Commission's subprogrammes concerned with natural resources, energy and marine affairs carried out during the biennium 1992-1993,

Mindful of the regrouping of the above-mentioned sectors in the revised Medium-term Plan 1992-1997 and the relevant programme budget for 1994-1995 into a single subprogramme aimed at enhancing the interrelationships between these sectors to ensure greater programme impact,

Aware of the enhanced significance and strategic importance of the present natural resources subprogramme for sustaining the long-term objectives of the Medium-term Plan, in particular with regard to the economic cooperation and integration of the African continent in the context of the Abuja Treaty, Agenda 21 and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,

Recognizing the urgency involved in strengthening both the substantive and operational capacity of the subprogramme in order to enhance its intended impact within the region,

Noting with concern the continued stagnation of available resources, both regular and extrabudgetary, required to carry out activities in support of regional policies, programmes and projects in order to strengthen the African countries' capacities and capabilities to fully explore, exploit and develop their natural resources,

Highly appreciative of the initiatives taken by the Secretary-General in the context of decentralization to strengthen the regional commission's activities in the area of natural resources development, especially in the fields of mineral resources, water resources, cartography and remote sensing, energy and marine affairs,

Convinced that the current process of decentralization of regular programme activities needs to be supported by a corresponding decentralization of extrabudgetary resources to complement and maximize existing regional capacities,

1. Appeals to all partners in operational activities for African development to give due consideration to the priorities assigned to the development of natural resources within the Economic Commission for Africa's programme of work with a view to funding related project activities;

2. Calls upon member States to facilitate the implementation of the Commission's activities in natural resources development through effective national institutional mechanisms, in particular with regard to the follow-up of its recommendations emanating from the self-evaluation of the relevant subprogrammes featuring marine affairs, mineral resources, water resources, energy and cartography and remote sensing;

3. Calls upon the Secretary-General within the context of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations to ensure the effective decentralization of relevant global programmes and activities to the Commission;

4. Requests that an in-depth evaluation of the subprogramme be undertaken during the 1994-1995 biennium;

5. Requests the Executive Secretary to report on the implementation of this resolution at the next meeting of the Conference of Ministers.

291st meeting,
4 May 1994.

777 (XXIX). *Enhancing the capacity of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs)*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 311 (XIII) of 1 March 1977 establishing the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs),

Recalling also its resolution 702 (XXV) of 19 May 1990 on transformation and strengthening of the MULPOCs and the pertinent provisions of its resolution 726 (XXVII) of 22 April 1992 on strengthening the Economic Commission for Africa to face Africa's development challenges in the 1990s,

Noting with satisfaction the allocation by the United Nations General Assembly through its resolution 46/185 of five additional established professional posts in the MULPOCs,

Noting further with appreciation that the bulk of the additional resources made available under the United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation in 1994-1995 have been redeployed to the MULPOCs with a view to strengthening their capacity to provide advisory services within the subregions,

Considering however, that critical areas remain uncovered by the expertise currently available in the MULPOCs and require additional resources on a sustained basis which cannot be met through the Commission's regional advisory services programme,

Noting also with satisfaction member countries' continuous material support to the MULPOCs in providing, inter alia, office premises free of charge and seconding on a temporary basis national experts to the MULPOCs,

Taking note of the recommendations contained in the draft report of the United Nations Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the triennial review of the in-depth evaluation of the programme on development issues and policies (DIP) of the Commission, and more specifically to sections devoted to the MULPOCs,[7]

Recalling further that the MULPOC budgets for the biennium 1994-1995 were approved with due regard to current budget restraints in the United Nations and pressing priorities of member countries and their intergovernmental organizations,

Reaffirming the validity in the short, medium and long terms of the mandate of MULPOCs as spelt out in its resolution 702 (XXV) recalled above and noting MULPOC activities towards the rationalization and harmonization of subregional economic groupings as well as substantive support to the latter in the formulation and implementation of their multisectoral programmes,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the United Nations General Assembly for measures already taken to strengthen the MULPOCs' capacity to adequately respond to the needs of their member States and their intergovernmental organizations;

2. Supports efforts being deployed by the Executive Secretary to provide the MULPOCs with the required critical staff and non-staff resources to enhance their effectiveness;

3. Further calls upon the General Assembly, within the framework of future budget provisions, to supplement efforts made by the Commission and member States in order to increase, as the sixteenth meeting of the Conference had wished, the human and financial resources of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres.

291st meeting,
4 May 1994.

778 (XXIX). *The situation in the least developed countries*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the Programme of Action for the least developed countries for the 1990s adopted by the second United Nations Conference on the least developed countries held in Paris from 3 to 14 September 1990,

Bearing in mind that two-thirds of the category of least developed countries are from the African continent,

Noting with concern that since the adoption of the Programme of Action in favour of the least developed countries the socio-economic conditions in these countries continues to worsen, with possible further decline as a result, inter alia, of the recently concluded Uruguay Round Agreements,

Recognizing that despite the painful reform efforts undertaken by the least developed countries, the commitments by the development partners are yet to materialize

Further recognizing the concern expressed over the situation in the least developed countries by the Organization of African Unity Council of Ministers in

its fifty-eighth session through CM/1459 adopted consequently by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity during its twenty-ninth session in Cairo, Egypt, from 28 to 30 June 1993,

1. Notes with concern the worsening socio-economic situation of least developed countries, the majority of which are in Africa;

2. Calls upon Africa's development partners to intensify their efforts towards the implementation of the Paris Programme of Action in favour of the least developed countries;

3. Further calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity to continue to give special attention to the plight of these countries, especially in light of the implications of the Uruguay Round Agreements on them and to monitor and intensify efforts in assessing the situation in the least developed countries during the forthcoming review in 1995;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to submit a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action, and of this resolution.

291st meeting,
4 May 1994.

779 (XXIX). *Strengthening the operational capacity of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 33/202 of 29 January 1979 on strengthening the operational capacity of the regional economic commissions,

Noting with satisfaction the measures taken by the United Nations Secretary-General to strengthen the economic and social role of the regional economic commissions within the Organization,

Encouraged by the emphasis laid within the work programme of the Commission on operational activities and the new multidisciplinary approach to programme activities,

Recalling in particular the urgent need for resources to enable the Commission to monitor and implement the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,

Considering that extrabudgetary resources account for a substantial share of the resources that the Commission must have in order to implement its work programme,

Concerned by the alarming decline of the Commission's extrabudgetary resources in recent years,

Deploring the downward revision of the United Nations Development Programme's Regional Indicative Planning Figure for Africa,

Noting with regret that the resources reserved for Africa by the European Union for regional project implementation under the Lome Convention have only been partly used,

1. Appeals to all bilateral and international partners that currently assist the Commission or intend to do so, in particular member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the League of Arab States and their cooperation agencies to work further at strengthening their cooperation with the Commission by financing its subregional and regional projects and programmes;

2. Also makes a special appeal to the European Union to facilitate the access of African States and their intergovernmental organizations to those resources reserved for the financing of regional projects;

3. Invites African member States to give further support to subregional and regional programmes, particularly through the allocation of domestic resources and by voluntarily earmarking a percentage of the national indicative planning figures provided to them by the United Nations Development Programme;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to take all the necessary steps to implement this resolution and to report thereon to the next meeting of the Conference of Ministers.

291st meeting,
4 May 1994.

780 (XXIX). *Implementation of the programme for the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1993-2002)*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/177 of 22 December 1992 on the adoption of the programme for the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the call made therein to the African countries and the international community to take concrete steps to ensure the full and successful implementation of the new Decade,

Recalling further resolution GC.4/8 of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on the second Decade which, inter alia, requested the Director-General to provide increased assistance to African countries

and their subregional organizations for the implementation of their national and subregional programmes for the second Decade,

Mindful of its resolution 739 (XXVII) of 22 April 1992 requesting the Executive Secretary of the Commission to assist African countries in the implementation of their national and subregional programmes for the second Decade,

Conscious of the crucial role that can be played by the private sector, local entrepreneurship and women in the accelerated development of industrialized countries and newly industrialized countries,

Reaffirming the primary responsibility of the African countries in the implementation of the programme for the second Decade and the need for a substantial flow of technical and financial resources from the international community towards the industrialization of Africa and in particular the implementation of the programme for the new Decade,

Further reaffirming the need for coordination and harmonization of the activities of the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

1. Calls upon all African countries to take concrete policy, institutional and other measures to ensure full implementation of their national and subregional programmes for the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa including the establishment of an enabling environment for the development of the private sector and the attraction of substantial financial and technical resources for investment in the priority areas of the programme for the second Decade;

2. Further calls upon Africa's development partners and development finance institutions particularly the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the Islamic Development Bank, the Arab Bank for the Economic Development of Africa and African subregional banks and funds to allocate substantial resources to the implementation of the programme of the second Decade at the national and subregional levels;

3. Also calls upon African countries which have not yet done so to establish national coordinating committees for the second Decade, take full account of the priorities of the second Decade in policy and programme formulation for the industrial sector including ensuring that such programmes as structural adjustment programmes do not adversely affect the implementation of the programme for the second Decade;

4. Requests the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to take concrete steps to ensure that the programme for the second Decade and in particular, the Coordination Unit for the Industrial Development Decade for Africa is provided with substantially increased human and financial resources to enable it to support more effectively the implementation of the 50 national and four subregional programmes for the second Decade;

5. Adopts the Plan of Action for the harmonization of the implementation of the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, taking into account the recommendations of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning;[9]

6. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission and the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to undertake concrete actions required for the harmonization of the activities of the second Industrial Development Decade and the second Transport and Communications Decade according to the Plan of Action in consultation with the Organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank and other relevant organizations;

7. Further requests the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Executive Secretary of the Commission to accord high priority to the development of the private sector, the participation of women and the utilization of African consultants in their activities related to the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa;

8. Also requests the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to take concrete steps for the promotion of the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa at the international level and the mobilization of financial and technical resources for the new Decade, the implementation of Agenda 21, the review of the implications for African countries' industrialization efforts to the Uruguay Round and the fundamental changes at the international level;

9. Requests further the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to ensure that all opportunities are used to mobilize financial resources for the second Decade programme;

10. Appeals to the General Assembly to allocate increased resources to the Commission to enable it to support African countries in their efforts towards the establishment of the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa more effectively.

especially the activities of the Committee of Ten at regional, subregional and national level;

11. Requests the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Executive Secretary of the Commission to report jointly on the implementation of the present resolution to the Conference at its next meeting.

291st meeting,
4 May 1994.

781 (XXIX). *Development of the private sector for the accelerated implementation of the programme for the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and beyond*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/177 of 22 December 1992 adopting the programme for the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa,

Cognizant of the need to ensure full participation of all agents of production, services and distribution in the Decade for its successful implementation,

Noting that the private sector has played a fundamental role in the economic and industrial development of advanced and newly industrialized countries,

Conscious that the development of the private sector has played a fundamental role in the economic and industrial development of advanced and newly industrialized countries,

Conscious also that the rehabilitation and revitalization of industry and the development of the private sector, African entrepreneurship small-scale industry development and the adaption of private sector development policies is crucial to industrialization, integration and overall economic growth of Africa,

Aware of the role of the market economy in fostering the growth of African private entrepreneurship,

1. Calls upon African countries to adopt concrete measures to create and sustain an enabling environment which would foster the development of the private sector and African entrepreneurship including the promotion of the role of women in the industrial development of Africa;

2. Calls further upon African Governments to provide appropriate material, technical and financial and institutional support for the establishment of the small- and medium-scale industries as a means of laying the foundation of industrialization in Africa;

3. Calls upon the African Development Bank and other subregional/regional financial and banking institutions to provide increased resources to the African private sector in particular to African industrial entrepreneurs;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to provide African countries with increased support for the development of their private sector;

5. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission and the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to report on the implementation of this resolution to the Conference at its next meeting.

291st meeting,
4 May 1994.

782 (XXIX). *Development of basic industries for the structural transformation of African economies*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/177 of 22 December 1992 which adopted the programme for the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa,

Recalling further its resolution 752 (XXVIII) of 4 May 1993 which called upon African countries to create an enabling environment for industrial investment to promote the implementation of the programme of the second Decade,

Bearing in mind the major objectives of the mandate of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry in accelerating the pace of industrialization in the region through the harmonization of industrial policies and strategies of member States and of relevant intergovernmental organizations as well as in defining an African common position in international negotiations on industrialization,

Mindful of the Lagos Plan of Action, the Final Act of Lagos and their provisions on collective self-reliance and self-sustained development,

Conscious of the central role of industrialization in the socio-economic transformation of Africa,

Fully aware of the serious structural weaknesses and vulnerability of the African economy,

Noting with great concern the trends in the world towards the creation of economic blocs,

Conscious of the urgent need for Africa to establish larger and consolidated economic spaces through economic cooperation and industrial integration in line with the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community,

Convinced that basic industries are the key to Africa's economic transformation and the attainment of self-reliance given their backward and forward linkages with all industrial subsectors of metallurgical, engineering, chemical and agro-industries with other economic sectors,

Aware that basic industries require massive capital outlay and larger markets beyond the capacity of individual African countries and can therefore be most optimally established through subregional and regional cooperation arrangements of multinational/transnational industrial enterprises,

Taking into account the existence of abundant natural resources in a number of African countries,

1. Calls upon African countries to take concrete measures to establish multinational industrial enterprises in the area of basic industries, namely metallurgical, engineering, chemical and other basic industries through bilateral, subregional and regional cooperation;

2. Further calls upon African Governments to mobilize and pool their resources in a collective endeavour to establish and sustain basic industries, especially within the framework of subregional development organizations and economic communities;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the President of the African Development Bank, to undertake the necessary follow-up actions in promoting Africa's basic industries particularly the national and subregional projects contained in the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa;

4. Requests further the Executive Secretary of the Commission and the General-Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to hold consultative meetings of sponsoring countries and organizations with indigenous and external potential investors as well as African and non-African financial institutions for the purposes of identifying, formulating and undertaking feasibility studies and financing of specific bankable projects with basic industries;

5. Also requests the African Development Bank and other subregional/regional funding institutions to cooperate with African Governments in mobilizing internal and external resources in order to finance basic industries and to assist African countries by funding subregional projects in basic industries under its resources reserved for subregional programmes;

6. Invites the private sector to participate with the support of the African Development Bank and other subregional/regional financial institutions in setting up basic industries in Africa;

7. Appeals to the donor community to assist African countries to establish basic industries through the provision of financial resources and joint ventures.

291st meeting,
4 May 1994.

783 (XXIX). *The Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations adopted in Abuja, Nigeria in June 1991,

Further recalling its declaration on the implications of the Uruguay Round of negotiations on Africa's trade adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in May 1993,

Taking note of the current status of the Uruguay Round and the impact of the emerging results on their trade prospects and development in general,

Concerned that the remaining outstanding issues of major interest to Africa, particularly market access, concessions in tropical agricultural and manufactured products as well as natural resource-base products are the most decisive for achieving a balance outcome of the Uruguay Round,

Aware of the great challenges that will face African countries in terms of the necessary legal and policy adaptation that this will entail,

Taking note of the technical assistance provided to the African participants in the Round by the Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and other organizations,

1. Adopts the Tunis Declaration on the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations;

2. Invites the Chairman of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade to transmit the Declaration to all participants of the Uruguay Round through the Trade Negotiation Committee;

3. Calls upon the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in the framework of the African multilateral trade negotiations, and in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity, to assist African countries to adequately prepare for the evaluation of the results called for in Section Nine of the Punta del Este Ministerial Declaration;

4. Further calls upon the Executive Secretary of the Commission, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Director-General of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the Executive Director of the International Trade Centre to elaborate a programme of technical assistance to African countries to respond to the needs of the post-Uruguay Round period aimed at:

(a) Assisting African countries in the implementation of the Uruguay Round results;

(b) Strengthening African countries' trading capacity and competitiveness in order to take advantage of trade opportunities arising from multilateral trade liberalization;

(c) Assisting these countries to be better prepared for future trade negotiations envisaged in some of the Uruguay Round agreements and in defining the objectives of and participation in the negotiations of a new trade agenda;

5. Calls upon the Executive Secretary of the Commission to strengthen the relevant structures of the Commission in order to assist member States to adapt their economies to the new developments in international trade that the Uruguay Round entails;

6. Invites donor countries and the United Nations Development Programme to provide financial support to enable African countries to cope with the post-Uruguay Round period;

7. Agrees that an international conference should be organized in Tunis, under the auspices of the Commission, in collaboration with the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the International Trade Centre on technical assistance to African countries, with the aim of enabling the adaptation of their economies to the new international trade environment, and more particularly, to the outcome of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

291st meeting,
4 May 1994.

784 (XXIX). *Africa and the crisis in international commodity agreements*

The Conference of Ministers,

Concerned about the prevailing situation in commodity prices of products of export interest to Africa and the attendant effects on the export earnings of their countries,

Aware of the debilitating impact the progressive decline in commodity prices has had on economic performance of African countries and their capacity to service external debt,

Further aware of the collapse of a number of international commodity agreements of interest to Africa and the prolonged and difficult negotiations which have taken place to find successor agreements to a number of these agreements,

Convinced that a number of these international commodity agreements might not be successfully negotiated,

Noting with interest the establishment of a Coffee Retention Plan by coffee growers within the framework of South-South cooperation as a mechanism for managing coffee supplies and for stabilizing world coffee prices,

1. Urges African countries to strengthen their cooperative efforts in negotiations for successor agreements to major international agreements;

2. Calls upon African countries to evaluate and analyze the applicability of the principles of the Coffee Retention Plan to other commodities exported by Africa;

3. Invites the Common Fund for Commodities, the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant institutions to provide financial and other assistance to help African countries to diversify their economies;

4. Further calls upon the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the President of the African Development Bank and the Managing Director of the Common Fund for Commodities to assist African countries in effectively dealing with the problems of declining prices and in improving their productivity, diversification and access to markets.

291st meeting,
4 May 1994.

785 (XXIX). *Promotion and expansion of intra-African trade*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act adopted by the extraordinary session of the

Assembly of African Heads of State and Government in April 1980,

Taking cognizance of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community adopted by the Assembly of African Heads of State and Government in Abuja, Nigeria in June 1991,

Aware that the strengthening and expansion of intra-African trade can contribute to the socio-economic development of our countries,

Concerned about the prevailing economic situation in Africa and the small share of intra-African trade in its total trade,

Considering that despite the adoption of programmes of trade liberalization schemes within existing subregional groupings, their impact on intra-African trade still remains insignificant,

Acknowledging that the considerable potential which many African countries have for processing raw materials remains under-utilized,

Noting that the sixth All-Africa Trade Fair which took place in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe in 1992 constituted an important event for promoting intra-African trade,

Convinced that the first Afro-Arab Trade Fair organized in Tunis in October 1993 will give impetus to the growth of intra-African trade,

Recognizing that African countries continually make great efforts to promote and expand intra-African trade,

Noting with satisfaction the project for the creation of an African Export-Import Bank for financing trade,

1. Calls upon African countries to implement measures designed to encourage intra-African trade and subregional groupings to harmonize their investment and trade policies, including the progressive reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers;

2. Urges African countries to transform, as much as possible, their raw materials through processing in order to increase value added to their exports and to explore opportunities for exchange of goods as a way for temporarily alleviating their balance-of-payments difficulties;

3. Calls upon African countries to take the necessary measures to encourage South-South co-operation in the service sector, to allow African enterprises to profit from the African expertise acquired in this area;

4. Further calls upon African countries to participate actively in the preparatory stages of the seventh All-Africa Trade Fair and possibly provide financial support to the organizers of this event;

5. Recommends to African Governments that they facilitate the active participation of their respective business communities at the All-Africa Trade Fairs and other international exhibitions, in order to expand African trade;

6. Further recommends the periodic organization of the Afro-Arab Trade Fair as an effective instrument for promoting trade;

7. Requests the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the secretariats of the Organization of African Unity and the African Development Bank, to study the establishment of a network of trade and economic data, for the gathering and dissemination of business opportunities and for development of partnership between African economic operators;

8. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the President of the African Development Bank and the secretariats of subregional groupings to continue to assist member States in promoting and expanding intra-African trade and South-South trade.

291st meeting,
4 May 1994.

786 (XXIX). *Strategies for Revitalization, Recovery and Growth of Africa's Trade in the 1990s and Beyond*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the Strategies for Revitalization, Recovery and Growth of Africa's Trade in the 1990s and Beyond adopted at the special session of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in December 1990,

Noting that the critical economic situation prevailing in the majority of African countries has militated against implementation of many of the decisions adopted in the Strategies,

Convinced that the Strategies remain a valid and an important framework for revitalizing Africa's domestic, intra-African and external trade,

1. Invites the Follow-up Committee to carry out its mandate;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to provide to the said Committee the required technical support;

3. Calls upon African countries to implement the policies and measures contained in the Strategies;

4. Further requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to report to the next Conference of African Ministers of Trade on progress made in the implementation of the said Strategies.

291st meeting,
4 May 1994.

787 (XXIX). *Science and technology for development*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 738 (XXVII) of 22 April 1992 regarding the possibility of establishing a ministerial conference on science and technology,

Recalling also its resolution 509 (XIX) of 28 May 1984 on strengthening of African capabilities in science and technology,

Recognizing the need for member States to develop their science and technology resources including means for evaluating their efforts in this regard,

1. Welcomes its resolution 757 (XXVIII) of 4 May 1993 on the restructuring of the intergovernmental machinery of the Commission which established an African Regional Conference on Science and Technology by upgrading the existing Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Science and Technology Development;

2. Calls upon the General Secretariat of the Organization of African Unity to bring the issue of the establishment of the African Regional Conference to the attention of the Council of Ministers, with a view to supporting the objective of the Conference as indicated in its resolution 757 (XXVIII);

3. Urges that ministers responsible for science and technology should show their commitment by actively participating in the African Regional Conference on Science and Technology;

4. Requests the Commission, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in collaboration with other relevant agencies, to develop and recommend mechanisms, including science and technology indicators for evaluating the developments and management of science and technology in the member States.

291st meeting,
4 May 1994.

788 (XXIX). *Establishment of an African Monetary Fund*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the Lagos Plan of Action, more particularly, the decision to create an African Monetary Fund,

Recalling also the establishment of the Enlarged Ministerial Committee of Libreville,

Taking note of the progress report on the establishment of an African Monetary Fund,

1. Reaffirms its commitment to work towards the effective establishment of the proposed African Monetary Fund;

2. Mandates the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, the President of the African Development Bank, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Director-General of the African Centre for Monetary Studies to continue with the studies needed to bring the proposed African Monetary Fund into being and to report the progress thereon to the sixth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance.

291st meeting,
4 May 1994.

789 (XXIX). *Strengthening information systems for Africa's recovery and sustainable development*

The Conference of Ministers,

Convinced that information support is vital to Africa's recovery and sustainable development,

Concerned by the underdeveloped information and documentation sector in many African countries and the inadequate financial and material resources available for its growth,

Welcoming General Assembly decision 48/453 of 21 December 1993 recommending the provision of adequate staffing and resources for the Economic Commission for Africa subprogramme on information systems development, beginning with the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1992/51 of 31 July 1992 on the need to ground the Commission's activities in sound data and information system and 1993/67 of 30 July 1993 on the Commission's subprogramme in information systems development,

Recalling also its resolutions 716 (XXVI) of 12 May 1991 on implementing an integrated approach to development information and 763 (XXVIII) of 4 May 1993 on strengthening development

information systems for regional cooperation and integration in Africa,

Appreciative of the continuing support given by the International Development Research Centre as well as new support from the Government of the Netherlands and the Carnegie Corporation of New York to the Pan-African Development Information System's activities to strengthen the information capabilities of member States,

Appreciative also of the approval of the Council of Ministers of the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of the project "Information Technology for Africa" for further consideration by the European Union in the framework of the Lome IV Convention,

Bearing in mind the need to strengthen the Commission's subregional development information centres as information support for subregional economic cooperation and integration,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts being made by the Commission's development information system in the delivery of technical assistance to member States and the large number of requests pending in this area,

Noting with further satisfaction the full incorporation of the activities on information system development into the programme budget of the Commission,

Noting, however, with concern that the Commission has had regular budget activities in this area since 1984 without resources being provided for them,

Aware of the decreasing availability of extrabudgetary resources for implementation and utilization of development information systems and technology,

Noting with grave concern the precarious financial situation of the Commission's activities in this area to meet the important needs of its member States and the urgency to end its reliance on extrabudgetary sources of funding,

1. Appeals to member States to recognize the vital importance of developing their information sector by:

(a) Adopting national information and informatics policies;

(b) Providing sufficient resources in the national budget for the essential growth of this area;

2. Urges member States to approve the utilization of new technology for electronic communication in order to permit Africa's full access to the global information highway;

3. Further urges member States to formulate their needs for technical assistance in information systems development by:

(a) Giving priority to information systems development in the use of their United Nations Development Programme country indicative planning figures, utilizing the technical support services mechanism where applicable;

(b) Considering development information activities in their pledges to the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development;

(c) Using, where appropriate, the financial provisions under the Lome IV Convention for this purpose;

4. Urgently appeals to the European Union to consider favourably the Pan-African Development Information System project approved by the African, Caribbean and Pacific group Council of Ministers and submitted to it for funding;

5. Calls upon the donor community to support both national initiatives as well as the Commission's activities to strengthen development information capabilities in the African region;

6. Approves the outline of the work programme for 1995-1996 in information systems development, while urging the Commission to continue its leadership role in the area of information systems and sciences, information technology, and telematics in order to support Africa's efforts for sustainable development;

7. Encourages the Commission through its information systems development activities to facilitate intra-African information exchange as support for regional economic integration by developing norms and standards, in collaboration with other relevant technical organizations, for information compatibility and promoting their use;

8. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to allocate additional section 20 resources to the subprogramme on statistical and information systems development in accordance with the recommendation of the Second Committee;*

9. Also requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to seek additional resources through voluntary contributions for the Commission's subregional development information centres in the framework of the subprogramme on statistical and information systems development;

10. Requests the General Assembly, within the spirit of decision 48/453 adopted and in view of the importance of development information systems for Africa's development, to authorize the creation of three professional posts at P3, P4 and P5 levels and

four local level posts, to permit the delivery of programmed activities of the Commission's sub-programme on information systems development beginning with its 1994-1995 programme budget.

291st meeting,
4 May 1994.

790 (XXIX). *Capacity building for statistical development in Africa*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 683 (XXV) of 19 May 1990 on the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s,

Further recalling its resolution 734 (XXVII) of 22 April 1992 on implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s,

Noting with satisfaction the initiative that has been taken by the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development in promoting statistical development in the countries of the region through capacity building in areas of organization and management of national statistical systems, research in methods and standards and data sources, data processing and statistical training,

Further noting that these are the principal aspects of statistical development in which capacity needs urgently to be further and significantly enhanced at the national, subregional and regional levels to successfully achieve the objectives of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action,

Recalling the concern of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers at its eighth session on the drastic reduction of available resources and the need for additional resources to enhance capacity building at the national, subregional and regional levels to achieve objectives of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action,

1. Urges African Governments to vigorously implement actions to be taken at the national level as recommended in the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s;

2. Also urges both the multilateral and bilateral donor agencies bearing interest in capacity building in Africa to:

(a) Provide further support at the national, subregional and regional levels to facilitate the work of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development; and

(b) Recognize that the need to build capacity at the regional level in the Economic Commission for Africa - as the regional organization with a mandate for the promotion of statistical development - is as important as the promotion of capacity at the national level;

3. Further urges the United Nations Development Programme to:

(a) Provide requisite catalytic support to the Commission to supplement its resources to facilitate the work of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development and help countries in identifying resource constraints to the promotion of statistical development and enhancement of requisite capacity at the national level; and

(b) Make it possible for the Commission to support statistical institutions in the countries in accessing the technical support that the United Nations Development Programme is able to provide through its TSS1 and TSS2 modalities of technical cooperation.

291st meeting,
4 May 1994.

791 (XXIX). *Change of name of the African Training and Research Centre for Women (ATRCW) to African Centre for Women (ACW)*

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 269 (XII) of 28 February 1975 which endorsed the establishment of an African Training and Research Centre for Women within the Economic Commission for Africa with a view to facilitating the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of women in Africa and enhancing their contribution to the overall development of the continent,

Further recalling subsequent resolutions which recognized the central role of African women in the development of the continent more especially in the rural areas where the majority of the population live,

Considering the increase in women's concerns due to the increasing scarcity of productive resources, the worsening of the physical and socio-economic environment, the spread of destructive wars and conflicts and the feminization of poverty,

Conscious that women constitute a valuable pool of human resources for the socio-economic recovery and development of Africa and that there is need for the regional focal point to facilitate the empowerment of African women for their effective participation in all sectors of development,

Recognizing the importance of reinforcing the role and visibility of African women at all levels particularly in the political and economic spheres and the need to ensure the impact of the beneficiaries development programmes,

Recognizing further with satisfaction the pioneering and key role played by the African Training and Research Centre for Women in raising awareness of policy-makers and all development agents on gender issues, in formulation and monitoring of strategies aimed at enhancing the role of African women in development as well as in institutional and capacity building towards total advancement of African women,

Considering the importance of communicating this all-embracing role of the Centre on gender issues through its name,

1. Recommends that the African Training and Research Centre for Women changes its name to "the African Centre for Women" in order to adequately reflect the scope of its activities including monitoring changes in the trends of socio-economic development; ensuring that African women concerns are adequately addressed; and designing and implementing programmes for the advancement of women in line with the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, the Abuja Declaration on Participatory Development: the Role of Women in the 1990s; the System-wide Medium-term Plan on the Advancement of Women and any other relevant policy framework;

2. Requests the African Centre for Women to intensify its working relationship with government machineries in charge of the advancement of women and to work closely with non-governmental organizations in order to ensure greater impact at the grass-roots level in line with the provisions of the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation;

3. Urges member States and the international community to continue to give their full support to the Centre;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission to make every effort to strengthen the Centre with a view to enhancing its effectiveness and efficiency as the overall regional structure in charge of the advancement of women in Africa.

291st meeting,
1 May 1994.

792 (XXIX). *An integrated approach to women's empowerment: The Kampala Action Plan on Women and Peace; violation of women's human rights; and women's economic empowerment*

The Conference of Ministers,

The Kampala Action Plan on Women and Peace

Taking into account the Arusha Strategies for the Advancement of Women in Africa which call for special attention to refugee and displaced women; the Abuja Declaration on Participatory Development: The Role of African Women in the 1990s; and the rights of children as articulated in the United Nations Children s Charter,

Considering that despite the basic strategies for peace set up in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, the threat to peace continues to be a major obstacle to human progress, and specifically to the advancement of women,

Taking into account the disproportionate share of national resources spent on armaments and defence in comparison to what is directed to socio-economic activities, and in view of the breakdown of traditional mechanisms for resolving conflict and protecting women and children and the destructive nature of militaristic conflicts and their devastating effects on women and children,

Considering that peace education is a life-long process based on the concept of partnership between men and women and advocates the necessity for eradicating all types of violence in society at familial and community levels, and in view of the limited presence of women in decision-making positions at various fora where issues concerning their lives are addressed, decided upon and policy formulated,

1. Resolves to adopt the Kampala Action Plan on Women and Peace;[10]

2. Strongly urges African Governments, non-governmental organizations, women, grass-roots, youth, United Nations agencies and other international organizations to participate actively in the implementation of the Kampala Action Plan by setting aside resources for its implementation and setting up mechanisms for monitoring programmes and activities in this regard on a regular basis;

3. Requests the Economic Commission for Africa to ensure that the concerns of the Kampala Action Plan are incorporated in the Africa Platform for Action of the fifth Regional Conference on Women which should eventually be an input into the global Platform for Action of the fourth World Conference on Women;

4. Requests the Commission, working in collaboration with the Organization of African Unity, to report to it every three years on the implementation of the Kampala Action Plan;

Violation of women's human rights

Taking into account the slow rate of ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other relevant legal mechanisms,

Noting with concern that the development of women is often constrained by a pervasive negative environment at personal, family, community and societal levels due to various socio-cultural practices and laws inimical to their advancement, all of which have far-reaching socio-psychological as well as economic and legal implications,

Considering the monumental loss to society when more than half of its population does not contribute fully to its development due to the stumbling blocks referred to above,

Desirous that women should break out of the psychological, socio-cultural and legal mould that contributes towards the status quo by limiting their contribution to their personal development and that of society in general,

Recognizing the need to empower women to take full control of their lives as autonomous self-directing beings in all aspects of their lives,

1. Urges the Economic Commission for Africa, working in collaboration with the Organization of African Unity, to facilitate the organization of national, subregional and regional training seminars as well as any other appropriate activities to sensitize national governments, institutions, non-governmental organizations and the general public on the socio-cultural-legal realities in which women live and their socio-psychological as well as legal implications in the context of their human rights, with a view to creating a positive, enabling environment conducive to their full development and safety;

2. Calls upon governments to enact laws and other legal instruments that guarantee safety from violence on the individual woman and in families while revising those that might work against this principle; ensure the prosecution of offenders in this context; and identify and legislate against cultural practices that reinforce physical and psychological oppression of women;

3. Requests the Commission to incorporate these views in the regional report of the fifth Regional Conference on Women;

4. Urges governments, non-governmental organizations and international organizations to facilitate the implementation of this resolution by availing resources to this end;

5. Requests the Commission to report on the implementation of this resolution to it every two years;

Economic empowerment of women

Taking note of the conclusions and recommendations of the feasibility study on the establishment of an African bank for women or an appropriate financial intermediary that would facilitate access of credit to women,

Encouraged by the increasing attention accorded to the enhancement of the entrepreneurial spirit of African women through the establishment of national associations of women entrepreneurs and the African Federation of Women Entrepreneurs in accordance with the Commission resolutions 736 (XXVII) and 753 (XXVIII) on economic empowerment of women,

Taking into account the fact that women do not have sufficient access to credit and other resources necessary for their economic advancement,

Considering the need to empower women politically and economically through education and information to equip them for the challenges ahead,

Stressing the need to generate more economic opportunities for women so that they can benefit fully from the recently operational African Economic Community and other regional and global developments,

1. Endorses the recommendations for the establishment of a financial institution specialized in women's needs;

2. Requests the Commission, working in collaboration with the Organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank and other relevant institutions, to complete the final study on the practical modalities for setting up the financial institution and to ensure its establishment and take-off;

3. Exhorts member States to take the necessary legislative, monetary and banking measures to facilitate the promotion of women's entrepreneurship at the national, subregional and regional levels;

4. Calls upon the Commission, the Organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank and the World Bank to give full support to the African Federation of Women Entrepreneurs;

5. Requests the Commission to report to the next Conference on the implementation of this resolution.

291st meeting,
4 May 1994.

793 (XXIX). *Strengthening and developing capacities in support of regional seed pathology in Africa*

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering the conclusions of the discussions by the 1994 ECA Conference of Ministers of the report E/ECA/CM.20/13 of 20 March 1994 on the necessity for Africa to rapidly achieve food security and food self-sufficiency,

Recalling the fourteenth meeting of the Scientific Council of the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council of the Organization of African Unity held in Cairo, Egypt in 1978 and the series of consultations and studies undertaken by the Organization of African Unity/Inter-African Phytosanitary Council in collaboration with the Department of Plant Pathology, University of El Mansoura, Egypt, on strengthening and developing capacities in support of seed pathology in Africa,

Recalling also the "African strategies for the implementation of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development Agenda 21: A proposal" and particularly one of its priority concerns relating to the achievement of food self-sufficiency and food security in Africa,

Further recalling that the attainment of food self-sufficiency for the rapidly growing African population requires the use of healthy seeds, particularly since it has been established that approximately 90 per cent of all African food crops are propagated by seed,

Noting the initiatives already undertaken by the University of El Mansoura, Egypt, to strengthen and develop its Department of Plant Pathology into a Regional Seed Pathology Centre for Africa,

Noting further that the goal and objectives of the centre take into account the regional dimension and also focus on strengthening the capacities of institutions involved in the production of healthy seeds including production, conservation, distribution and use,

1. Appeals to member States of the Economic Commission for Africa to provide voluntaril financial support for the transformation of the seed pathology test centre in Egypt into a regional centre for Africa;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in cooperation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Director General of Food and Agriculture Organization to prepare the documentation necessary to mobilize the needed resources for the implementation on a sustainable basis of the project on regional seed pathology centre;

3. Requests the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to cooperate with the Executive Secretary of the Commission within the framework of the existing Organization of African Unity technical structures in this field, including, among others, the Centre phytosanitaire interafricain and the Centre africain pour la recherche et la formation phytopathologique in the implementation of this project;

4. Invites Africa's development partners, in particular the European Union, the United Nations Development Programme, the African Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, as well as bilateral partners, to provide financial support to efforts to create the Regional Seed Pathology Centre.

291st meeting,
4 May 1994.

B. Decisions

DEC.1 (XXIX). *Revised mandate of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers*

The Conference of Ministers,

Approves the amendments to the terms of reference of the Joint Conference of Planners, Statisticians, Demographers and Information Scientists as follows:

(a) The Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians, Demographers should be changed to: *Conference of African Planners, Statisticians, Population and Information Specialists*, acting within the framework of the policies and procedures of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Economic Commission for Africa, shall, providing that the Conference takes no action with respect to any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(i) Serve as a forum for examining progress and problems in the fields of African planning, statistics, *population and information science* and take action to ensure their development in the light of the general principles of self-reliance and technical cooperation among countries of the region;

It is suggested that the following paragraph (Ia) should be added:

(ii) *Serve as a forum to exchange experiences and keep abreast of new developments in the areas of planning, statistics, population and information science;*

(iii) Establish arrangements for the improvement of all aspects of methodologies, *norms and standards* and practice in the *four* fields under African conditions;

It is suggested that the following paragraph:

(iv) Coordinate the training programmes for and promote the training of the necessary African personnel in planning, statistics and demography;[11]

be amended to read:

*Review the relevance of regional training programmes to the needs of the countries of the region and promote the training of the necessary African personnel in planning, statistics, population and information science;*

and the following paragraph:

(v) Collaborate with the secretariat in evaluating economic, social, demographic conditions in the region to assist in formulating appropriate strategies and monitoring their implementation;

be amended to read:

*Collaborate with the secretariat in evaluating economic and social conditions in the region, to assist in formulating and monitoring development strategies and programmes;*

(vi) Conduct its operations in collaboration with other relevant bodies and international agencies (no change);

(b) The members of the Conference shall be the government officials in charge of the national planning, statistical and population agencies, *information/documentation institutions* of the member States of the Economic Commission for Africa, or their representatives. Representation of all other Governments and bodies shall follow the same rules as for sessions of the Economic Commission for Africa;

(c) The Conference shall meet once every two years and shall report on its sessions to the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa;

(d) Work at sessions of the Conference shall be organized in plenary meetings and in committees. A joint report on plenary and committee meetings shall be agreed at a final plenary meeting of each session of the Conference;

(e) At the beginning of each session, the Conference shall elect a *Chairperson*, two Vice-Chair*persons* and a Rapporteur. At the beginning of its meeting each committee shall appoint its Chair*person*, a Vice-Chairperson and a Rapporteur;

(f) Member States and agencies shall bear the cost of their attendance at the sessions of the Conference;

(g) Except as provided for herein, the Rules of Procedure of the Economic Commission for Africa shall, where relevant, apply to the sessions of the Conference.

DEC. 2 (XXIX). *Programme of work of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), 1994-1996*

The Conference of Ministers,

Approves the programme of work and budget (1994-1996) for the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development as follows:

Programme of work of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), 1994-1996

(a) Orientation

The African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development programme document which was developed earlier (1989) is still valid as a long-term objective.

The long-term objective of ACMAD, as given in the constitution and reflected in the programme document, is to contribute to the socio-economic development of African countries through the use of meteorological products and the creation of a new meteorological assistance system for the sustainable development of the region, with the view to:

(a) Mitigate the effects of droughts and other weather-related disasters;

(b) Promote activities leading to an improved knowledge of weather and climate anomalies in Africa as they affect the socio-economic development process;

(c) Promote the use of renewable sources of energy as well as water resources management; and

(d) Conserve, by rational use and management, the natural resources of African countries.

To achieve these long-term objectives, a number of immediate objectives were formulated on the assumption that the member States of ACMAD would bear costs that are necessary for the day-to-day running of the Centre while recourse would be made to the international community and Africa's other development partners for support in the major capital investments and infrastructure.

With the financial and human resources contributions from member States, the support of some donors and partners and the sponsorship from the United Nations specialized institutions like ECA, WMO, UNEP and FAO, the Centre has been operating now for two years and has carried out useful work in the areas of:

(a) The production of medium-range weather forecasts;

(b) On-the-job-training in new techniques and technologies in the field of meteorology;

(c) Climate impact study in Africa within the framework of the AMCEN climatology network (first multidisciplinary activity).

However, more regular resources are needed to implement fully the initial work programme mainly in the field of applied meteorology for a sustainable development. To be in a position to secure more funds from the member States and the world community, it is now imperative to develop a medium-term (three-year) programme of work that will further respond to the pressing needs of the African community. The programme should be tailored to the immediate needs of the end-users at the community and grass-roots levels. The immediate and long-term objectives of ACMAD are still valid. However, they need to be prioritized and phased as the potential resources of the Centre dictate. In selecting the priority objectives to be addressed, it is important to emphasize the applications aspects of the Centre, geared to stimulating activities in the main development sectors such as agricultural production, water resources management, agro-pastoral activities, renewable sources of energy products, environment protection, natural disaster reduction and life and property protection. Therefore, instead of revising the programme document, it was felt preferable to concentrate on short- and medium-term tasks to be accomplished by the Centre.

(b) Future work programme (1994-1996)

With these guiding principles in mind, the programme for the triennium 1994-1996 will be oriented towards the immediate objectives of establishing relevant facilities and regular climatic and meteorological data and processed products to national and regional institutions, both government and non-governmental, which would contribute, inter alia, to:

(a) Early-warning systems (crops, livestock, forestry, locusts);

(b) Assessment and alleviation of the effects of drought, desertification, floods, tropical cyclones;

(c) The management of climate-related socio-economic activities such as agricultural production, promotion of the use of renewable sources of energy and improvement of water resource management;

(d) The conservation of the environment; and

(e) Capacity building for a sustainable development.

Main tasks

To achieve the immediate objectives outlined above, the following major tasks should, to the extent possible, be carried out by ACMAD, in close collaboration with subregional, regional and global centres, with the aim of avoiding duplication and making use of relevant existing products and developing new improved ones.

Task 1

To monitor climate variability and extreme weather events including drought, heat waves, wind and sand storms, flash floods and tropical cyclones, on a continental scale.

Activities

(a) Develop and adapt a methodology for the evaluation of precipitation by satellite and meteorological radars (production of software, calibration, training);

(b) Compile an inventory of documents available on extreme events, studies and expertise available in the continent (drought, tropical cyclones, etc.);

(c) Access climatic databases required for the operation of the Centre;

(d) Identify and adapt existing statistical methods for the analysis of extreme climatic events;

(e) Carry out analysis of past events of climatic importance;

(f) Develop continental drought-monitoring methods and thresholds;

(g) Prepare a Drought Watch Bulletin using, among others, methods developed under activity (d) above and output from subregional, regional and global centres;

(h) Prepare and issue operational 10-day, monthly and seasonal climate diagnosis and anomalies bulletins.

Task 2

Analysis, monitoring and forecasting of the weather producing systems on a continental level and for long range.

Activities

(a) Collect and analyse real-time meteorological data on a day-to-day basis with a view to monitoring the evolution of weather events over the continent;

(b) Develop methodologies and adapt model outputs for medium- and long-range weather forecasts (outlooks) applicable for the continent;

(c) Compile various methods, techniques and models developed elsewhere and which are relevant to the operation of the Centre and adapt those proved useful;

(d) Issue weather forecasts and outlook of 10 days, monthly and seasonal durations on a continental level.

Task 3

Developing methods and techniques for the application of weather and climate information and impact assessment and transfer these technologies to regional, subregional and national institutions.

Activities

(a) Compile information on economic activities over the continent which require the use of products and services of the Centre;

(b) Compile catalogues of available data bases including meteorological, agromet, hydromet, etc.);

(c) Apply the methodologies and techniques developed for impact assessment on relevant and sensitive economic activities. Such application techniques include:

(i) crop-weather models;

(ii) weather-based crop-yield forecasting;

(iii) breeding and migration of locust;

(iv) water resources assessment and management;

(v) desertification monitoring and control.

Task 4

Carry out applied research and development studies in climatology and meteorology, and conduct training relevant to the work of the Centre.

Activities

(a) Evaluate and promote new methodologies for the study of extreme events characteristics for use in monitoring and forecasting;

(b) Carry out studies and investigations with a view to developing methods, techniques and models for use by the operational units of the Centre;

(c) Carry out environmental impact study of concern to the continent such as ozone, climate change, drought and desertification, etc., and provide advice and guidance to members;

(d) Organize workshops, publish results and conduct training events on:

(i) Techniques in the analysis of climate parameters;

(ii) Techniques in the analysis and monitoring of drought;

(iii) Techniques in the analysis and forecasting of weather systems;

(iv) Interpretation and application of the products issued and applied methodologies developed by the Centre, etc.;

(v) Upgrade capabilities to deliver the ACMAD programme at the Centre and at relevant national institutions.

(c) Strategy for the implementation of the suggested activities

Since ACMAD has also responsibility for capacity building and strengthening institutions, its success will depend on the demand by users for its products.

The objective is for ACMAD to complement the activities of national meteorological services in order to increase their contribution to national economic development. It is also ACMAD's mandate to sensitize users as to the relevance of the application of meteorological data and products to support socio-economic development activities. The awareness of this relevance by the different sectors will generate demands on the national meteorological services and increase the demand for ACMAD products and services. Its network is made up of two levels of users, the major users and the end-users. The major users include national meteorological services, regional and continental early-warning systems,

regional meteorological centres, United Nations specialized agencies and multinational institutions. The end-users are those for whom the meteorological information would have to be processed further and tailored to their needs at the national level by national meteorological services. They include national policy and decision makers, government and private sectors dealing with agriculture, water, environment, etc., and United Nations agencies and donors country representatives and relevent non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

With this capacity-building strategy, cross-sectoral activities will be carried out with the major users and with the relevant policy and decision makers, government ministries and NGOs. A multi-disciplinary approach will be used for on-the-job training, workshops, seminars and study tours in the timely application of ACMAD products.

To implement the four tasks and the various activities under each task, the meeting recommended the following:

(a) To recruit two experts for tasks 1 and 2 for two months each to develop the methodologies and prepare sample products; WMO to assist;

(b) To recruit one expert for task 3 for one month; FAO/UNEP to assist;

(c) To organize two expert meetings, one each for tasks 1 and 2 to review and contribute to the methodologies developed by the experts. Experts from regional and advanced centres such as DMCs, ECMWF, CAC, Australian Climate Centre, etc., should be invited to participate in these meetings;

(d) ECA to assist in the development of projects for donor assistance based on the four tasks;

(e) Nine professional staff are required to run the operations of the Centre, and these could be recruited as resources are made available/included in the projects to be developed. The existing secondment scheme should be continued;

(f) UNDP, ECA, WMO, UNEP and FAO should provide assistance in mobilizing financial resources for the implementation and development of ACMAD's programme;

(g) Organize the second ACMAD's Partners Conference.

(d) Resource implications

To carry out the above activities within the framework of the strategies suggested, the immediate recruitment of three specialized professional staff (team leaders) and an additional six specialized staff will be required during the period of the current plan (1994-1996) (one expert for each of tasks 1, 2, 3 and 4, one for planning and one for equipment and software maintenance and development).

(e) Institutional framework

For the activities of ACMAD to be continued and strengthened, links with relevant economic sectoral ministries, including environment, should be added to the existing national meteo-service to ACMAD networks. ACMAD should organize, jointly with the relevant institutions, seminars/workshops for staff from relevant socio-economic sectoral Ministries. Other seminars/workshops should be organized to focus on NGOs, including women groups particularly those involved in agricultural projects as well as journalists. Such seminar will facilitate the dissemination and the proper use of ACMAD's products by the end-users (including farmers).

BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR MAY 1994/APRIL 1995 - MAY 1995/APRIL 1996

| OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE | 05/94-04/95 W/M | 05/94-04/95 Amount $US | 05/95-04/96 W/M | 05/95-04/96 Amount $US | TOTAL 1994-1996 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10.00 PERSONNEL | | | | | |
| 10.01 Established staff | 60 | 185,000 | 60 | 185,000 | 370,000 |
| 10.02 Temporary staff | 96 | 148,800 | 96 | 148,800 | 297,600 |
| 10.03 Consultants | 6 | 48,000 | 6 | 48,000 | 96,000 |
| 10.04 Administrative support | | 70,000 | | 70,000 | 140,000 |
| 11.00 COMMON STAFF COSTS | | 125,000 | | 125,000 | 250,000 |
| 12.00 TRAINING | | 40,000 | | 40,000 | 80,000 |
| 13.00 TRAVEL TO MEETINGS | | 40,000 | | 40,000 | 80,000 |
| 13.01 Staff travel to meetings | | | | | |
| 13.02 Board members travel to Board meetings | | | | | |
| 14.00 OFFICIAL MISSIONS | | 50,000 | | 50,000 | 100,000 |
| 15.00 EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE | | | | | |
| 15.01 Expendable equipment | | 30,000 | | 30,000 | 60,000 |
| 15.02 Non-expendable equipment | | 15,000 | | 15,000 | 30,000 |
| 15.03 Furniture | | | | | |
| 16.00 SUPPLIES | | 20,000 | | 20,000 | 40,000 |
| 17.00 PRINTING | | 20,000 | | 20,000 | 40,000 |
| 18.00 UTILITIES | | 48,000 | | 48,000 | 96,000 |
| 19.00 TELECOMMUNICATIONS | | 85,000 | | 85,000 | 170,000 |
| 20.00 RUNNING COSTS | | | | | |
| 20.01 Maintenance of office equipment | | | | | |
| 20.02 Maintenance of scientific equipment | | | | | |
| 20.03 Maintenance and running of vehicles | | 40,000 | | 40,000 | 80,000 |
| 20.04 General maintenance | | 20,000 | | 20,000 | 40,000 |
| 21.00 MISCELLANEOUS | | | | | |
| 21.01 Sundry | | 14,000 | | 14,000 | 28,000 |
| TOTAL | | 998,800 | | 998,800 | 1,997,600 |

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

10.01 Established posts

1994-1995:
1 Director General x 12 w/m =
12 x 45,000/pa = 45,000
4 professional staff x 12 w/m =
48 x 35,000/pa = 140,000
Total: 185,000

1995-1996:
1 Director General x 12 w/m =
12 x 45,000/pa = 45,000
4 professional staff x 12 w/m =
48 x 35,000/pa = 140,000
Total 185,000

10.02 Temporary staff

Seconded national experts (who will run the Centre's operational activities) - payment of living allowance and travel expenses as appropriate; technical support staff on temporary basis - payment on a daily basis. They are responsible for maintenance of equipment and upkeep of premises.

10.03 Consultants

Resources persons (provide inputs into the Centre's programme) of daily subsistance allowance (DSA) and air transportation : 12 RP/2 weeks for each.

10.04 General service staff

1994-1995: 1 Administrative assistant/secretary, 1 Typist, 2 Drivers, 1 Guard, 1 Cleaner

1995-1996: In addition to those in 1994-1995, 1 Accountant, 1 Guard, 1 Librarian, 6 Technicians

11.00 Common staff costs

Common staff costs will comprise post adjustment, housing allowance, education grant, medical treatment, insurance, housing allowance for experts seconded from member States.

12.00 Training

Training of the users of ACMAD products.

13.00 Travel to meetings

ACMAD Board meetings; meetings of relevant ECA legislative bodies; WMO statutory meeting; relevant regional, subregional IGO meetings.

14.00 Travel on official business

Cost of staff travelling to (a) member States to deliver outputs of the work of the Centre and raise financial resources and (b) donors to negotiate the financing of projects.

15.00 Equipment and furniture

Purchase of expendable and non-expendable equipment and furniture as well as operational vehicles. It will also include the rental and maintenance of scientific equipment: cost of maintenance and servicing of electronic equipment (including mainframe computers).

16.00 Supplies

Supplies and material: Office and operational units furniture (paper and toner for the printers).

17.00 Printing

Acquisition of technical and scientific publications and books. Printing of meteorological maps for the forecast Unit and publications of ACMAD products.

18.00 Utilities

Payment of the electricity and water bills, etc.

19.00 Telecommunications

Cost of telephone, telex, fax and assigned telecommunication lines.

20.00 Running costs

Petrol and lubricants: cost of fuel, servicing of the existing equipment, etc.

21.00 Miscellaneous

Sundry, cost of unexpected expenses, hospitality, taxes, reception of visitors.

Annex

## RATIFICATION AND PAYMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

due from the ratification year and for the financial period 1989-1993 (status as at 30 April 1994)

| Countries | Annual amount | Ratification date | Contribution cumulated (US$) | Contribution voluntary m/m | Arrears in years |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Algeria | 80,000 | 18.09.91 1 | 160,000 | 34 (19) | 1 (-91) |
| 2. Angola | 27,600 | on progress | **** | 08 (02) | ***** |
| 3. Benin | 6,500 | on progress | **** | 02 (01) | ***** |
| 4. Botswana | 6,500 | on progress | **** | - (-) | ***** |
| 5. Burkina Faso | 6,500 | 07.06.89 | **** | 01 (01) | 5 (89-93) |
| 6. Burundi | 6,500 | 14.06.89 | 10,400 | (-) | 3 (92-93) |
| 7. Cameroon | 32,600 | 28.12.89 | 63,409 | 04 (01) | 3 (91-93) |
| 8. Cape Verde | 6,500 | on progress | **** | 03 (01) | ***** |
| 9. Central African Rep. | 6,500 | - | - | - (-) | - |
| 10. Chad | 6,500 | on progress | ***** | 01 (01) | ***** |
| 11. Comoros | 6,500 | - | - | - (-) | - |
| 12. Congo | 10,800 | 09.11.89 | ***** | - (-) | 5 (89-93) |
| 13. Djibouti | 6,500 | - | - | - (-) | - |
| 14. Egypt | 80,000 | 22.11.90 | **** | 03 (01) | 4 (90-93) |
| 15. Eq. Guinea | 6,500 | - | - | - (-) | - |
| 16. Ethiopia | 21,100 | 10.03.90 | 83,400 | 05 (02) | 0000000 |
| 17. Gabon | 17,400 | on progress | **** | 01 (01) | ***** |
| 18. Gambia | 6,500 | on progress | **** | - (-) | ***** |
| 19. Ghana | 48,100 | on progress | **** | - (-) | ***** |
| 20. Guinea | 11,100 | 20.06.88 | **** | 03 (01) | 5 (89-93) |
| 21. Guinea-Bissau | 6,500 | on progress | **** | 03 (01) | ***** |
| 22. Côte d'Ivoire | 33,800 | ratified | **** | 09 (03) | 5 (89-93) |
| 23. Kenya | 34,900 | 29.04.91 | 10,000 | 25 (09) | 2 (92-93) |
| 24. Lesotho | 6,500 | on progress | **** | - (-) | ***** |
| 25. Liberia | 6,500 | - | - | - (-) | - |
| 26. Libyan Arab Jam. | 80,000 | 20.06.90 | **** | 06 (02) | 4 (90-93) |
| 27. Madagascar | 13,900 | 18.06.90 | 27,800 | 01 (01) | 2 (92-93) |
| 28. Mali | 6,500 | 06.06.91 | **** | 05 (02) | 3 (92-93) |
| 29. Malawi | 6,500 | 29.06.90 | 19,500 | 03 (01) | 1 (-93) |
| 30. Mauritania | 6,500 | on progress | **** | - (-) | ***** |
| 31. Mauritius | 6,500 | 27.03.89 | 32,450 | 03 (01) | 00000000 |
| 32. Morocco | 20,900 | 04.06.90 | ***** | 01 (01) | 4 (90-93) |
| 33. Mozambique | 16,300 | on progress | **** | 03 (01) | ***** |
| 34. Niger | 8,200 | 22.02.88 | 49,200 | 18 (04) | 00000000 |
| 35. Nigeria | 80,000 | 18.03.88 | 50,000 | 18 (06) | 4 (90-93) |
| 36. Rwanda | 9,200 | on progress | ***** | 12 (04) | ***** |
| 37. Sao Tome & Principe | 6,500 | - | - | - (-) | - |
| 38. Senegal | 13,400 | 06.07.89 | 49,200 | 11 (04) | 1 (-93) |
| 39. Seychelles | 6,500 | 08.11.89 | **** | - (-) | 5 (89-93) |
| 40. Sierra Leone | 7,200 | - | - | - (-) | - |
| 41. Somalia | 13,900 | - | - | - (-) | - |
| 42. Sudan | 23,500 | on progress | **** | - (-) | ***** |
| 43. Swaziland | 6,500 | - | - | - (-) | - |
| 44. Togo | 6,500 | 29.05.89 | **** | 01 (01) | 5 (89-93) |
| 45. Tunesia | 48,200 | 07.04.88 | **** | - (-) | 5 (89-93) |
| 46. Uganda | 6,500 | on progress | ***** | 10 (03) | ***** |
| 47. Tanzania | 37,100 | on progress | ***** | 06 (02) | ***** |
| 48. Zaire | 13,700 | - | - | - (-) | - |
| 49. Zambia | 15,500 | on progress | **** | 01 (01) | ***** |
| 50. Zimbabwe | 32,700 | on progress | **** | 04 (02) | ***** |
| 51. Namibia | xxxxxx | - | - | - (-) | - |
| 52. Eritrea | xxxxxx | - | - | - (-) | - |

1. The arrears of Algeria contribution are being transferred through UNDP/Algiers.

2. Partial contributions of Kenya and Nigeria are being transferred through UNDP/Nairobi and UNDP/Lagos.

3. Niger contribution (5 years = $41,000) is being transferred to OPT/Niamey in order to settle the bill for the transmission of ACMAD products to the member States for 20 months.

4. The status of the contributions as at 30 April 1994 is as follows: 23 countries have ratified the Constitution, 18 have confirmed that the process of ratification is on the way, 11 countries have honoured their financial contributions, (8) partially, (3) totally.

## C. Declarations

DCL.1 (XXIX). *Declaration on the re-integration of new democratic South Africa into Africa*

1. We, the African Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning, meeting in the twenty-ninth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa/twentieth meeting of the Conference of Ministers from 2 to 5 May 1994 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, declare as follows:

2. We recall that South Africa was one of the nine founding member States of the Economic Commission for Africa and that by Economic and Social Council resolution 974D (XXXVI) of 30 July 1965 was excluded from the work of the Commission until such time as it abandoned its racial policies.

3. We welcome the radical changes that have taken place in South Africa since February 1990, particularly the dismantling of the system of apartheid, the adoption of a democratic constitution and the holding of the first non-racial general elections. We also welcome the fact that democratic South Africa will soon take its rightful place in the community of nations and continental organizations such as the Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity, the African Development Bank and in other regional and subregional groupings which the new government may decide to join.

4. We note that successful constitutional change and the advent of a democratic government in South Africa will have far-reaching economic and political implications for South Africa itself, the neighbouring countries in Southern Africa and Africa as a whole.

5. We believe that South Africa's membership of the African Economic Community will be beneficial to the Community and South Africa.

6. We take note of Conference of Ministers document E/ECA/CM.20/35 entitled "Towards socio-economic development of democratic South Africa: ECA's role in perspective", which discussed, inter alia, ECA's initiatives in monitoring the process of transition in South Africa as well as its preparatory work in anticipation of post-apartheid South Africa and South Africa's eventual re-establishment of relations with the rest of the continent.

7. We maintain that the legislative and technical machinery of ECA and its MULPOC subregional offices which could provide a useful forum for the sharing of development experiences, as well as ECA's analytical capacities and technical and advisory services based on a multi-sectoral approach to Africa's complex development problems, which could all be placed at the disposa of the new South Africa.

8. We, therefore, request ECA, OAU and ADB within the context of the joint secretariat, other regional organizations and specialized agencies to assist, on the basis of priorities that may be established by the new South African Government, in the socio-economic development of South Africa.

9. We call upon the international community and the multilateral financial and development institutions to lend their support to South Africa and to provide assistance as may be requested by the new South African government.

10. We request the Executive Secretary of the UNECA to submit a report to ECOSOC in conformity with its resolution 974D (XXXVI) of 30 July 1965 to recommend a re-admission of a democratic South Africa into the Commission.

Done at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
4 May 1994.

DCL.2 (XXIX). *Declaration on a human development plan of action for Africa*

1. We, the African Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning, meeting in Addis Ababa from 2 to 5 May 1994, recall "The Khartoum Declaration: Towards a Human-focused Approach to Socio-economic Recovery and Development", "The African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation", "The Human Development Agenda for Africa in the 1990s and Beyond"; "The African Common Position on Human and Social Development in Africa", "The building, strengthening and effectively utilizing human capacities for sustained development in Africa" and the "Dakar/Ngor Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development", in all of which it has been amply demonstrated that development will be sustainable only to the extent that it is centred on man. We resolutely re-affirm the centrality of the human being as the initiator and beneficiary of development, the agent through whom, by whom and for whom any sustainable development endeavour must be undertaken.

2. We are deeply concerned that in spite of all the commitments made and the actions taken by African Governments and people, the human and social situation in Africa continues to deteriorate to the extent that much of the gains made earlier in human well-being have now been reversed. Nowhere, perhaps, is the intensity of human deprivation more acutely felt than in our region. Some 250 million people live in abject poverty. Malnutrition and starvation are widespread. A host of diseases continue to threaten the lives of millions and more than four and a half million children die each year largely from preventable diseases.

Millions of our people are denied primary health care, clean water and proper sanitation facilities. Access to education has been seriously eroded, leaving our youth, unprepared and ill-equipped for the world of work. Unemployment and underemployment have escalated, affecting adversely the lives of millions of people. Perennial armed conflicts, civil strife and natural disasters continue to afflict the region, resulting in a heavy loss of human life, property and infrastructure and producing millions of displaced people and refugees. A continuation of these conditions is not only morally repugnant but also poses a serious threat to peace, security and sustained development in our region and the rest of the world.

3. These deteriorating conditions are further compounding our problems of building and strengthening development capacity in the region which are manifest in the inadequacy of skills and knowledge to rapidly create capital and technology; the weak and deteriorating physical infrastructure which has negatively affected the smooth functioning of the State, society and economy; the absence of effective institutions that can create, maintain and continuously strengthen capacity; the disenabling political, cultural, economic and social environment severely limiting the empowerment and participation of the people in the development process; and shortcomings of governance, accountability and transparency for maintaining socio-economic and political equilibrium for the greatest good of all the people. In all cases, development capacity is created and nurtured by human beings in whom adequate investments in the form of education and training, health, productive employment and decent income need to be made on a sustainable basis.

4. We have carefully examined Conference of Ministers document E/ECA/CM.20/9, entitled "Building, strengthening and effectively utilizing human capacities for sustained development in Africa" which reviews the situation in respect of human capacity building in our region, identifying the major human development priority areas and proposing strategies and policy measures to implement the major human capacity development action programmes at the regional, subregional and national levels. We are more than ever determined to arrest the current intolerable human and social conditions and build and strengthen human capacities for sustainable development in Africa.

5. Recognizing that no palliative or stop-gap measures can reverse the current alarming state of human and social conditions in the region and that nothing less than comprehensive action at the national, subregional and regional levels is warranted, we urge member States to give top priority to the implementation of people-centred development strategies, policies and programmes. We further call upon them to substantially increase public expenditure in all areas of human capacity building and in any case to maintain its growth at a rate that is significantly above the population growth rate. Our social partners including indigenous non-governmental organizations (NGOs), people's organizations and their communities can play an important role in improving human and social conditions and strengthening human capacities in the region.

6. We are aware that although Africa's development will be brought about only through the hard work and determination of the Africans themselves, the international community also has an important role to play. Therefore, our efforts must be complemented by the concerted actions and unflinching support of their development partners - bilateral and multilateral agencies, international NGOs and others. To this end, and as a first step, official development assistance (ODA) in support of human development should increase from its present level of 7 per cent to at least 20 per cent towards building and strengthening human capacity in Africa. We recognize that national efforts will not succeed without the increased and assured commitment and support of Africa's development partners. Also, through their support, a much-needed enabling external environment should be created in support of Africa's development efforts.

7. Furthermore, we call on the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to redouble their efforts and increase their activities in the field of human development and the building of human capacities in Africa. In this regard, we urge them to coordinate such support and efforts within the framework of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Human Development in Africa.

8. We request the Executive Secretary of United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to prepare for us a "Human Development Plan of Action for Africa" in cooperation with the members of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Human Development in Africa. The Plan of Action should elaborate on matters such as the required levels of support and mechanisms for coordination and harmonization of efforts by the United Nations system.

9. We further request the Executive Secretary of the Commission to report to the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning on the progress made in implementing this Declaration.

Done at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
4 May 1994.

1. United Nations, A/48/334.

2. United Nations, A/48/335, annex, and Add.1 and 2.

3. United Nations, A/48/336 and Corr.1.

4. E/ECA/CM.20/3.

5. E/ECA/CM.20/27.

6. E/ECA/CM.20/27/Add.1.

7. E/ECA/CM.27/Add.2.

8. Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.93/89.

9. Document A/C.2/48/L.50/Rev.1.

10. E/ECA/ATRCW/ARCC.XV/94/7, April 1994.

11. This includes the functions requested in the statutes of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) which shall be exercised by the Committee of Planners established in paragraph 4 of the terms of reference.

## CHAPTER V

## FINAL COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS AT ITS TWENTIETH MEETING

1. The twenty-ninth session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa/twentieth meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning was held in Addis Ababa from 2 to 5 May 1994. The Conference, which coincided with the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Commission, had as its theme *ECA at 35: Building critical capacities in Africa for accelerated growth and sustainable development*.

2. The Conference was formally opened by His Excellency, Mr. Meles Zenawi, President of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia and Chairman of the Council of Representatives. The Secretary-General of the United Nations sent a message which was read to the Conference. A message from the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, H.E. President Hosny Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt, was read to the Conference by a special envoy. H.E. Alhaji Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, President of the Republic of the Gambia delivered a keynote address at the solemn opening ceremony. Statements were also delivered by Mr. Layashi Yaker, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Commission; Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity; Mr. Jean-Claude Milleron, United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis; and Ms. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa. Ambassador Paul Marc-Henry and Ambassador Yaw Turkson also delivered statements as special guests of the Conference. The representative of Cameroon, outgoing Chairman of the Commission, Honourable Augustin Frederic Kodock, Minister of State for Planning and Territorial Development, addressed the Conference. H.E. Mr. Jack Tumwa, Ambassador of Kenya, moved a vote of thanks on behalf of participants.

3. The session unanimously elected H.E. Mr. Mustapha Nabli, Minister of Planning and Regional Development of Tunisia, as Chairman. He was assisted by a Bureau composed of the following elected officers: H.E. Chief S.B. Daniyan, Minister of National Planning of Nigeria, First Vice-Chairman, H.E. Dr. K. Kayongo, Minister of Community Development and Social Welfare of Zambia, Second Vice-Chairman and H.E. Mr. Noël Borobo Epembia, State Secretary, Ministry of Economy and Planning of Gabon, as Rapporteur.

4. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

5. Observers from the following Member States of the United Nations were present: Belgium, Canada, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, United States of America and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

6. The Holy See and Palestine were also represented by observers.

7. A representative of the African National Congress (ANC) also participated at the Conference.

8. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the African Development Bank (ADB), United Nations departments, organs and specialized agencies as well as several intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations including many ECA-sponsored institutions participated in the meeting.

9. The Conference opened with a moment of silence in memory of the late Mr. Robert Kweku Atta Gardiner, former Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, who passed away on 13 April 1994.

10. The session was the culmination of a series of intergovernmental meetings which were successfully held in Addis Ababa in the course of the previous two weeks. Together with other thematic conferences and technical meetings that had been held since the last session of the Commission, these meetings provided inputs into the work of the session.

11. The Conference conducted an in-depth review of the current economic and social situation in Africa and the prospects for 1994. It noted that economic performance in the period 1990-1993 had been about 1.3 per cent on average per year; reflecting the decline in per capita output of 1.7 per cent per annum in that period. The Conference noted that regional output had grown by a mere 1

per cent in 1993 and the forecast for 1994 was 2 to 2.5 per cent growth.

12. In the context of the commemoration of the thirty-fifth anniversary of ECA during this session of the Conference, the Conference extended hearty congratulations to the Commission and paid special tribute to the founding fathers of the Organization whose vision has guided it since inception. The Conference noted that the occasion of the thirty-fifth anniversary offered an excellent opportunity to reflect on the institution's performance in promoting socio-economic development in Africa. It observed that ECA was an African institution which had served African interests very well in the past. In this regard, it also observed that ECA had been instrumental not only in establishing several sub-regional and regional institutions for economic development and integration, but also in articulating strategies for Africa's development. It expressed the hope that ECA's lessons from past experience would inform and guide a renewed dedication and successful tackling of the problems impeding rapid economic development of African countries; and in playing a crucial, catalytic and supportive role in articulating Africa's interest in the future.

13. The Conference underscored the timeliness, relevance and appropriateness of the Conference theme: "Building critical capacities in Africa for accelerated growth and sustained development". It noted that the rather limited results so far achieved from the economic reform programmes undertaken by member States were partly attributable to lack of critical capacities in many areas of economic management and development. Impetus for the theme was also provided by the changes which were taking place in the structure of the world economy which had heightened international competition.

14. The consensus of the Conference was that if African countries were to be set on the path of sustained growth in the twenty-first century, it would be necessary to sustain and enhance capacity building in the interlocking areas of human skills and talents development, strengthening national institutions and infrastructural development. It was emphasized that efforts at capacity building must address these three dimensions in each of the key priority areas, namely critical capacities in support of good governance, human rights, peace, security and political stability; critical capacities for effective socio-economic policy analysis and management; building and fully utilizing human capacities; developing entrepreneurial skills for public and private sector management; building and utilizing physical infrastructural capacities; capacities to exploit natural resources and diversify African economies into processing and manufacturing; strengthening capacities in support of food security and self-sufficiency; critical capacities for mobilization and efficient allocation of domestic and external financial resources.

15. The Conference endorsed "A Framework Agenda for Building and Utilizing Critical Capacities in Africa: A Preliminary Report" which includes a "Proposed Regional Action Programme of Technical Cooperation in Capacity Building and Utilization in Africa" and which is a preliminary study and consensus framework embracing the key issues in capacity building and institutional development as well as the basis of a more detailed study to be presented at the 1995 meeting of the Conference of Ministers.

16. The Conference observed that the bulk of the financial resources required for domestic capital investment for capacity building in Africa in the next two decades would have to come from domestic savings. Nonetheless, substantial external resource requirements would be required. Over the period 1995-2005, about US$433.8 billion (in 1994 dollars) would be needed in external finance to offset Africa's investment and savings gap. Similarly, about $434.7 billion would be required to cover the region's debt-payments obligations during the same period.

17. The Conference welcomed the coming into force of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. The Treaty was a bold step on the road to Africa's development. The Conference stressed that the implementation of the Treaty was a matter of utmost importance for Africa. The Conference emphasized the need for member States to promote policy convergence in the various sectors and policy issues covered in the Treaty.

18. The Conference supported the objective of rationalization and harmonization of ECA-sponsored institutions and emphasized that the need for rationalization and harmonization of these institutions was urgent. It was suggested that the ECA secretariat should hold further consultations with member States on this issue.

19. The Conference noted that the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of negotiations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the Final Act of which was signed in Marrakesh, Morocco on 15 April 1994 had ushered in a new era of international trade. The Conference noted with concern that African countries would gain the least from the agreement and, indeed, could incur losses initially. African countries with less diversified and competitive economies would lose their share of the market owing to the erosion of the trade preferences they enjoyed before the Uruguay Round agreement. In order to correct trade imbalances that would result from the rapid liberalization of world trade, African countries should receive more assistance from the international community, especially from the developed countries.

20. The Conference reviewed Africa's preparations for the forthcoming global conferences,

namely the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction to be held in Yokohama, Japan in 1994; the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Egypt, 1994; the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, Denmark, 1995; the fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, 1995; and the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in Turkey, July 1996. The Conference noted the efforts that African countries have made and continue to make in developing common platforms in preparation for these conferences. Member States were encouraged to intensify those efforts and present concerted and unified positions at the conferences.

21. The Conference welcomed the proposal regarding the establishment of a trust fund for peace-building, post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and development at ECA. It expressed the view that the trust fund will contribute to and facilitate ongoing efforts by the international community in post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and development in Africa.

22. In addition, the Conference took decisions on a number of other pertinent issues including the effective implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF); strategies for marine/ocean development in Africa; enhancing the capacity of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs); the situation in the least developed countries; strengthening the operational capacity of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa; implementation of the programme for the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, including the participation of the private sector; Africa and the crisis in international commodity agreements; promotion and expansion of intra-African trade; science and technology for development, including strengthening regional capacities in seed pathology; establishment of an African Monetary Fund; strengthening information systems; and the Kampala Action Plan on an integrated approach to women's empowerment.

23. The Conference paid tribute to the people of South Africa whose long and heroic struggle for liberation from the tyranny of apartheid was finally crowned with victory in the first-ever democratic elections which took place during the present meeting of the Conference. It welcomed with joy the birth of a new democratic South Africa under the leadership of President Nelson Mandela. The Conference further welcomed with profound satisfaction the possibility that at its next meeting in 1995 democratic South Africa would be an active and important participant. These developments were likely to enhance critical capacity building for economic cooperation and integration in southern Africa and the rest of the continent, in line with the current theme of the Conference. The Conference heard an address by a representative of the ANC, who expressed satisfaction at the opportunity to speak at this Conference at a time when his country was going through a profound political transition. The representative thanked the member States of the Commission for their support to liberation movements in the past.

24. Finally, the Conference expressed its sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Ethiopia for their generous hospitality and for facilitating the work of the Commission.

Done at the headquarters
of the UNECA
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
5 May 1994

Annex I

# REPORT OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (26 APRIL TO 1 MAY 1994) AS ADOPTED BY THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION/ TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

## A. *Attendance and organization of work*

1. The fifteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW) was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 April to 1 May 1994. The meeting was formally opened by H.E. Mr. Alemayehu Daba, Minister of Finance of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia. Mr. Layashi Yaker, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, also delivered a statement at the opening ceremony of the meeting. The representative of Kenya moved a motion of thanks.

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Tunisia, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. Observers from the following Member States of the United Nations were present: China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, Greece, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Norway, Romania, the Russian Federation, Spain and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

4. The Holy See and Palestine, not Members of the United Nations, were also represented by observers.

5. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: Regional Commissions New York Office (RCNYO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations University (UNU), International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/GATT), World Food Programme (WFP), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and Least Developed Countries of the United Nations (UN-OSCAL/DPCSD).

6. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the African Development Bank (ADB) were represented.

7. Observers were present from the following intergovernmental organizations: African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM), African, Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP), African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD), African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), African Regional Centre for Engineering, Design and Manufacturing (ARCEDEM), African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO), *Agence africain de biotechnologie*, Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (AATPO), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), *Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques* (IFORD), Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), International Livestock Centre for Africa (ILCA), Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA), Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS) and Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS).

8. The Committee elected the following officers:

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| Chairman: | Tunisia |
| First Vice-Chairman: | Nigeria |
| Second Vice-Chairman: | Zambia |
| Rapporteur: | Gabon |

9. The Committee established an open-ended sub-committee on resolutions and also entrusted it the task of examining in detail the preliminary report on a framework agenda for building and utilizing critical capacities in Africa (document E/ECA/-CM.20/6). This sub-committee was chaired by the first Vice-Chairman (Nigeria). The sub-committee consisted of the following core members:

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| West Africa: | Sierra Leone and Senegal |
| East Africa: | Uganda and Madagascar |
| Southern Africa: | Mozambique and Swaziland |
| North Africa: | Egypt and Sudan |
| Central Africa: | Congo and Cameroon |

B. Agenda

10. On 26 April 1994, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

**Conference theme:**
**ECA at 35: Building critical capacities in Africa for accelerated growth and sustainable development**

1. Opening of the meeting.

2. Election of officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

**PART I. Perspectives of Africa's socio-economic development**

4. (a) Economic Report on Africa, 1994;

(b) Report on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF);

(c) Towards socio-economic development of democratic South Africa: ECA's role in perspective;

(d) Biennial report of the Executive Secretary on the work of the Commission, 1992-1993.

**PART II. Conference theme: ECA at 35: Building critical capacities in Africa for accelerated growth and sustainable development**

5. (a) Critical capacities in support of good governance, human rights, political stability, peace and security in Africa;

(b) Critical capacities for effective socio-economic policy analysis and management;

(c) Building, strengthening and effectively utilizing human capacities for sustained development in Africa;

(d) Developing entrepreneurial capacities for public and private sector enterprise;

(e) Developing Africa's physical infrastructural capacities;

(f) Capacity building: Capacity building for food production, food security and self-sufficiency in Africa;

(g) Capacities to exploit natural resources and diversify African economies into processing and manufacturing;

(h) Critical capacities for the mobilization and efficient allocation of domestic and external financial resources.

**PART III. Regional and global cooperation for development in Africa**

6. (a) Policy convergence for regional economic cooperation and integration: implementation of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community;

(b) Preliminary assessment of the impact of the Uruguay Round agreements on African economies;

(c) Implementation of the African Strategies for the Implementation of Agenda 21 and the African Common Position;

(d) Preparations for global conferences:

(i) World Summit for Social Development;

(ii) Fourth World Conference on Women;

(iii) International Conference on Population and Development;

(iv) Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

(v) African Common Position and the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and the World Conference;

(e) Women and economic empowerment in Africa:

- The African Federation of Women Entrepreneurs (AFWE) and the creation of

an African bank for women: Progress report;

(f) Report of the Ad hoc Committee of member States on the rationalization and harmonization of ECA-sponsored institutions;

(g) Implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s: Progress report;

(h) Science and technology for the development of Africa;

(i) Strategy and Programme of Action for marine and ocean affairs in Africa;

(j) Activities in the field of emergency relief, humanitarian assistance, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development in Africa: (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Burundi, Rwanda, Mozambique).

**PART IV. Statutory issues**

7. (a) Staff and administrative questions;

(b) Issues from the subsidiary organs and sectoral bodies of the Commission calling for action by the Conference of Ministers.

**PART V. Programme of work and priorities of the Commission**

8. (a) Proposals for updating the 1994-1995 programme of work and priorities in the light of General Assembly appropriations;

(b) Programme evaluation in the Economic Commission for Africa;

(c) Strengthening ECA's operational capacity: Extrabudgetary resources; current situation and prospects.

9. Any other business.

10. Date and venue of the sixteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW).

11. Adoption of the report.

12. Closure of the meeting.

11. The Committee observed, on 29 April 1994, a moment of silence to honour the memory of late Mr. Robert K.A. Gardiner, Executive Secretary of ECA (1963-1975), who passed away recently.

C. *Account of proceedings*

*Opening addresses*

12. In his opening statement, His Excellency Mr. Alemayehu Daba, Minister of Finance of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia, welcomed participants to the meeting and observed that the main challenge confronting Africa was to remove the sources of economic stagnation and provide better living conditions for its people.

13. The Minister observed that with increasing population, low GDP growth rate, worsening terms of trade and the increasing burden of debt servicing, the people of the region were today poorer than they were at independence. He noted that structural adjustment pro-grammes (SAPs) that were being pursued by several African countries were important but could not solve all development problems. What Africa needed, the Minister emphasized, was the building of critical indigenous capacities in the areas of human resources, technology, good governance, infrastructure development and agriculture in order to ensure an effective take-off of African economies.

14. The Minister informed the Committee that since coming to power, the Transitional Government of Ethiopia has taken a lot of policy measures in the political, economic and social spheres towards the promotion of the rapid socio-economic development of the country. At the political level, greater decision-making power in economic and social areas had been given to the local governments formed after democratic elections.

15. At the economic level, the long term strategy was to reduce the role of the State in the economy in favour of the private sector. Another important emphasis was the development of an export-oriented, agro-based industrial sector utilizing abundant existing raw materials and labour-intensive methods. The results of the implementation of these economic recovery programmes had been very encouraging as the economy of Ethiopia grew by 7.6 per cent in 1993. This rate was expected to fall to 3 per cent in the current year only because of the prevailing drought. Much progress had been made in such strategic social areas as education, health, among other sectors.

16. The Minister concluded by noting that the theme of the current session, which was building critical capacities in Africa for accelerated growth and sustainable development, was very important considering the current economic and social state of the continent.

17. Mr. Layashi Yaker, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, welcomed all participants to the fifteenth meeting of TEPCOW. He expressed, on behalf of all participants, sincere appreciation to the Minister of Finance of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia for officiating at the opening session of the meeting. He said that the Minister's presence was indicative of the strong support that the people and the Government of Ethiopia extended to the United Nations and ECA. He observed that the present meeting coincided with the thirty-fifth year of the Commission and said that this anniversary would offer an opportunity to reflect on the role of the Commission and on the challenges ahead in Africa's development.

18. The Executive Secretary noted that the twentieth meeting of the Conference of Ministers was convening under the theme "Building critical capacities in Africa for accelerated growth and sustainable development". He made the observation that Africa's poor economic performance had been largely due to the lack of adequate indigenous capacities, including critical human skills, an effective institutional framework and infrastructural facilities. Taking into account the capacity constraints among the African countries, the secretariat had prepared several documents for the consideration of TEPCOW, intended to enhance critical capacities for the accelerated growth and sustainable development of the region. These documents covered priority areas such as critical capacities in support of good governance, human rights, political stability, peace and security in Africa; critical capacities for effective socio-economic policy analysis and management; building, strengthening and effectively utilizing human capacities for sustained development in Africa; developing entrepreneurial capacities for public and private sector enterprises; developing Africa's physical infrastructural capabilities; capacity building for food production, food security and self-sufficiency in Africa; building capacities to exploit natural resources and diversify African economies into processing and manufacturing; and building critical capacities for the mobilization and efficient allocation of domestic and external financial resources.

19. The Executive Secretary observed that the poor regional growth performance in Africa in 1993 mainly reflected the decline in mining output, the drastic fall in commodity prices and lower export earnings. Indeed, export values had slipped in 1993 while import values and the level of external debt had increased. He further observed that the crop failure in the Horn of Africa appeared to have led to another round of famine thereby casting doubts on national and subregional processes to anticipate, prevent and manage famines. Hence, he said there was urgent need to strengthen the capacity for drought management rather than depend on international support to alleviate the immediate suffering of affected people.

20. Concerning international trade, the Executive Secretary said that the signing of the Final Act of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations in Marrakesh, Morocco, was significant to Africa in five ways: products and services had been brought under multilateral trading discipline; the reduction of export subsidies and domestic support would result in higher food import bills for many African countries; the deep cuts in tariffs in Africa's export products would reduce preferential margins that African countries had enjoyed within the Lome Convention and the Generalized System of Preferences; and possibilities now existed to join the newly created World Trade Organization. He said that a preliminary assessment of the Uruguay Round Agreements revealed that world trade would grow when the Uruguay Agreements entered into effect, but Africa stood to gain the least from the agreements. Given such a situation, African countries' hopes rested in greater diversification of their economies.

21. The Executive Secretary welcomed the entry into force of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community following the attainment of the required number of ratifications by member States. He urged member States to ensure the successful implementation of the Treaty.

22. He expressed regret that though the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) had entered its third year, economic growth targets and ODA flows set in UN-NADAF had yet to be realized. Thus, the international community had to intensify efforts to realize the set goals particularly within the framework of the diversification fund for African commodities.

23. He informed the Committee that, as recommended in 1993, an Ad hoc Committee of 10 member States set up by the Conference of Ministers had reviewed the report prepared by the secretariat on the cost-benefit analysis of the harmonization and rationalization of ECA-sponsored institutions. He urged TEPCOW to act on the recommendations of the Ad hoc Committee.

24. The Executive Secretary stated that the Commission had continued to face financial difficulties owing to stagnant regular budget allocations from the General Assembly, significant falls in total extrabudgetary resources including especially resources from UNDP, UNFPA, some bilateral partners and UNTFAD. These latter falls had seriously affected the delivery of technical co-operation programmes including support to the sponsored institutions. That situation challenged the secretariat and member States of the Commission to seek new funding avenues so as to meet the increasing demands for the Commission's products and services.

25. In conclusion, the Executive Secretary rejoiced at the first multi-racial and democratic elections that were being held in South Africa as the Committee was meeting. Africa and ECA were looking forward to welcoming South Africa back to the family of African nations and in particular into the mainstream of African affairs.

26. The representative of Kenya moved a vote of thanks on behalf of the participants. He thanked H.E. Mr. Alemayehu Daba for his statement which had underlined the major political, economic and social measures undertaken by the Transitional Government of Ethiopia towards the promotion of the rapid socio-economic development of the country. He also thanked him for the inspiration that he had given the meeting concerning the importance of building critical capacities for the accelerated growth and sustainable development of Africa.

27. He expressed gratitude to the President of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia, H.E. Mr. Meles Zenawi and to the Government and people of Ethiopia, for the hospitality and courtesies accorded to the participants. Lastly, he thanked the Executive Secretary for his statement and the secretariat of the Commission for the quality of the documents produced for the meeting of the Committee.

## PART I.
## PERSPECTIVES OF AFRICA'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*Economic Report on Africa, 1994* [agenda item 4 (a)]

28. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.20/2 entitled "Economic Report on Africa, 1994". It took note of the report and congratulated the secretariat for the high quality of the analysis in the document. It nonetheless regretted the lateness with which the report was issued for the consideration of the Committee. The Committee requested that in future, the report should be sent to member States for review and comments weeks before the meeting of TEPCOW. It was further suggested that in future the report should be released on a specific date annually and well in advance of the beginning of TEPCOW, to enable member States sufficient time to study the report.

29. Regarding economic performance in Africa in 1993 and prospects for 1994, the Committee noted that the macroeconomic performance of the region had followed the disappointing trend of the past 15 years. Regional output had grown by only one per cent in 1993 after having virtually stagnated in 1992 with a growth rate of 0.4 per cent. This rate in 1993 contrasted with the population growth rate exceeding 3.0 per cent per year. The mean annual growth rate of GDP over the period 1990-1993 had been about 1.3 per cent, reflecting the decline in per capita output of about 1.7 per cent on average per annum and an increase in the incidence of poverty. The factors responsible for the economic crisis in Africa, namely structural weaknesses and the extreme vulnerability of national economies to external shocks continued to have an impact despite several years of structural adjustment. To the traditional factors of inclement weather, deteriorating terms of trade and the debt overhang had been added such new ones as political crises which had, in some cases, done considerable damage to economic and social infrastructures.

30. The Committee took note of the fact that despite the overall disappointing performance, there were differences among countries and among economic groupings. Output growth in North Africa had declined from 2.7 per cent in 1991 to 0.9 per cent in 1992 and 0.8 per cent in 1993. The drought which affected all the Maghreb countries had reduced irrigation potential with adverse effects on the level of agricultural production. The difficulties in the oil sector of some of the countries had also had a negative influence on the economic performance of the subregion. In Central Africa where the performance of mineral commodity exporters determined the level of subregional growth, performance had been particularly poor for the second year running. GDP fell by 4.6 per cent in 1993 after declining by 4.8 per cent in 1992. In Eastern and Southern Africa, growth rates in 1993 had clearly outstripped those of 1992. The respective figures were 2.6 and 1.2 per cent in 1993 compared to negative rates in 1992. The agricultural sector in this group of countries benefitted from improved weather conditions. In the Horn of Africa, however, weather conditions deteriorated in late 1993 and early 1994, seriously threatening agricultural and food production. In West Africa, GDP growth exceeded the regional average but fell below that of 1992. Subregional output in West Africa increased by 2.7 per cent as a result of the good 1992/1993 farming season.

31. The Committee noted that though food production had increased by 3.3 per cent, the total food aid requirements of Africa remained high. Fourteen countries of the region were facing extremely high food deficits because of drought or civil strife. However, the output of industrial crops had increased in 1993 with the exception of cocoa. The new thrust given to agricultural development policies through the liberalization of trade in goods, the removal of certain regulatory bottlenecks and the pursuit of strategies designed to check environmental degradation had largely helped to raise production levels. Mineral production, however, had been steadily declining since 1991 because of political instability in the major producing areas of certain countries and the fall in demand following recession in the industrial countries. Manufacturing value added had increased by nearly 1.3 per cent in 1993, accounting for 12 per cent of GDP. A series of bottlenecks such as the rising cost of inputs, raw

material supply difficulties and rising labour, credit and other servicing costs had constrained the performance of the sector.

32. The Committee was concerned about developments in the external sector characterized by the sharp drop in the prices of agricultural commodities and export earnings, the persistence of recession in the OECD countries, the continuing dearth of foreign investments and dwindling official development assistance. As reflected in the global price index, the prices of commodities declined again by 10.3 per cent in 1993. Generally, the external trade indicators of Africa had deteriorated. The value of total exports declined by 0.2 per cent in 1993 while that of imports increased by 1.3 per cent. Thus, the terms of trade had further deteriorated from 4.1 per cent in 1992 to 5.5 per cent in 1993. The poor performance of Africa's external trade sector could be ascribed to the rigidity of production structures which did not allow for export diversification at a time when there were many synthetic goods in the world market.

33. The Committee noted that the debt burden continued to weigh heavily on export revenues and absorbed significant amounts of resources which could have been channelled into financing development. The stock of external debt was $US285.4 billion in 1993 and amounted to 95.9 per cent of regional GDP as compared to 89.6 per cent in 1992. Owing to the persistence of the debt crisis and its adverse effects on recovery efforts, it had become urgent to develop a debt strategy that would significantly reduce Africa's debt burden. The net flow of resources to Africa in 1992 remained modest and the trend continued in 1993.

34. The Committee regretted the adverse influence of certain aspects of the current economic reforms and political transitions on the social conditions in Africa. Social and human conditions had deteriorated further in 1993, bringing about wider incidence of absolute and relative poverty. At present, it is estimated that 220 million Africans could no longer satisfy their most basic food needs. Unemployment, particularly among the youth, had been one major factor responsible for this social decline and indeed placed social equilibrium at great risk. The high rate of illiteracy among women who constituted an important socio-economic group in Africa was an impediment to development efforts. The achievement of social integration would reinforce the capacity of the African family to meet its socio-economic needs.

35. The Committee was concerned about the economic prospects for 1994 which, while being unclear on the external front, would continue to be dominated by such domestic factors as weather conditions and civil strife. In the absence of tangible signs that the economic situation in Africa and the world would change, the real GDP growth rate of the region in 1994 is expected to be in the range of 2 to 2.5 per cent. These projections would vary, however, from one grouping to another depending on the performance of the most decisive production sectors.

36. In the view of the Committee, the pursuit of economic policies dictated by structural adjustment would determine future economic performance but given the effect of such programmes on the most vulnerable people in society and the overall impact on the social situation in Africa, the Committee called for the strengthening of domestic capacities in Africa to manage reforms. In that regard, the Committee felt that it might be worthwhile to conduct an evaluation of the use of certain policy instruments advocated in ECA's African Alternative Framework for Structural Adjustment Programmes (AAF-SAPs) for the benefit of the region as a whole.

37. The representatives of some delegations pointed out certain inaccuracies in some of the information and references to their countries contained in the report and requested that these be corrected. The Committee agreed that delegations which felt that the facts or figures relating to the economic and social situation in their countries were not correctly reflected in the report should present their written comments to the secretariat.

38. The Committee took note of the report in the light of the above observations.

*Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF)* [agenda item 4 (b)]

39. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.20/3 entitled "Report on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF)".

40. The Committee took note of the guiding principles for the implementation of the New Agenda, namely that (a) African Governments and people had primary responsibility for the economic and social development of their countries; and (b) there was need for shared responsibility and genuine partnership between Africa and the international community.

41. The Committee observed that the New Agenda provided a consensual framework, setting desired objectives for the economic recovery and social development of Africa. Accordingly, it spelled out the policies and actions to be pursued in areas of regional cooperation and integration, in such other sectors as agriculture, food, health, population, environment, industrial development and transport and communications.

42. The Committee noted the activities undertaken by African countries and the international community (including the United Nations system) to

honour their respective commitments under the New Agenda. African countries had pursued economic reforms, the consolidation of democratic governance, the promotion of human development, the development of the food and agriculture sector and the protection of the environment. They had also shown much determination to speeding up the process of cooperation and integration.

43. On its part, the international community had mobilized assistance to help Africa cope with emergency situations arising from drought or armed conflicts. Other initiatives had focused on official debt relief for certain African countries and support to the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF). However, the Committee regretted that the support of Africa's development partners had been far below expectation, particularly with regard to the reduction of the external debt burden, commodity price support and the increase of resource flows for development.

44. The United Nations system had intensified its advocacy for greater assistance to Africa and worked to strengthen the various coordinating mechanisms for that purpose. In that regard, a System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development had been prepared. The Secretary-General had established a Panel of High-level Personalities on African Development chaired by himself.

45. While noting with appreciation the encouraging initiatives taken during the first three years following the adoption of the New Agenda, the Committee expressed concern at the fact that Africa was still facing grave difficulties manifested in deepening poverty and the persistence of many structural impediments, in particular the fragile nature of its human, institutional, infrastructural and financial base for promoting self-sustaining development.

46. The Committee noted that the conclusions of the preliminary report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the New Agenda had been taken into account by the secretariat while preparing the document under consideration. It underscored the need for strengthening African capacities required for the implementation of the New Agenda, the need for mobilizing and more effectively using domestic and external resources to achieve the priority objectives set by Africans themselves and that of taking the regional dimension of African development into account.

47. The Committee stressed the need to harmonize the implementation of the New Agenda and the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. Such harmonization should be seriously considered by the Panel of High-level Personalities on African Development chaired by the Secretary-General and properly reflected in the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development.

48. While the successful implementation of the New Agenda primarily depended on the efforts of member States, the issue of resources remained crucial. Hence, the Committee underscored the importance of the diversification fund for African commodities and hoped that negotiations regarding its establishment would be pursued vigorously by the African Group at the United Nations in New York.

49. The Committee underlined the importance of promoting trade among African countries and between Africa and the rest of the world within the process of economic recovery, coordination, follow-up and evaluation of the implementation of the New Agenda. The Committee urged both the international community and the United Nations system to mobilize themselves to give consistent support to the efforts of the African States. The Committee appreciated ECA's role in promoting the coordination among the various agencies in the United Nations system but observed that the level of regular budget resources allocated to the Commission for that purpose was grossly inadequate.

50. The Committee recommended that the twentieth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers should adopt a resolution calling upon Africa's development partners to honour their commitments under the New Agenda and requesting the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of strengthening the capacity of the ECA secretariat to coordinate, follow-up and evaluate the implementation of the New Agenda, in close cooperation with OAU, ADB and the United Nations agencies.

51. The Committee took note of the report in the light of the above-stated observations and adopted draft resolution 1 (XV).

*Towards socio-economic development of democratic South Africa: ECA's role in perspective* [agenda item 4 (c)]

52. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.20/33 entitled "Towards socio-economic development of democratic South Africa: ECA's role in perspective".

53. The Committee noted with satisfaction efforts made by ECA to monitor closely events in Southern Africa and the establishment by ECA of a Southern African desk as well as its active participation in the various activities undertaken in preparation for a democratic South Africa.

54. The Committee took note of the socio-economic challenges that the Republic of South Africa would face during the post-apartheid period as well as their implications for countries of the continent, in particular those of Southern Africa.

The Committee expressed the hope that the admission of South Africa into subregional organizations in the future would greatly contribute to transforming the relations between Southern African countries and South Africa from those of dependence to mutually advantageous partnership and cooperation. The Committee recommended that ECA conduct an in-depth study on the establishment of mechanisms to ensure that cooperation between South Africa and other African countries led to balanced and mutually beneficial relationships. Such mechanisms could be in the form of joint committees between South Africa and other African countries.

55. The Committee noted that ECA could assist post-apartheid South Africa both in dealing with its domestic socio-economic problems and re-integrating into the Southern African region and Africa at large. For instance, ECA can put its expertise and accumulated experience in development management at the disposal of South Africa in addressing issues of public service reforms, the establishment of vocational training programmes and advancement of women in development as well as articulating strategies and policies for development.

56. Concerning the role of ECA in the process of integrating South Africa into the rest of Africa, the Committee recognized the vital role that the Commission could play in developing strategies to promote economic ties with the rest of the continent, in particular through rationalization and harmonization of institutional mechanisms governing the integration process of the Southern African subregion, namely PTA/COMESA, SADC as well as SACU. The Committee however recognized that the success of that integration process would depend on the will and commitment of South Africa and African countries themselves.

57. While recognizing the need for ECA to assist South Africa in overcoming the legacy of apartheid in economic and social development, several delegations called attention to the fact that some countries in Southern Africa might have transitional problems relating to post-apartheid South Africa. There was thus need for ECA to extend assistance not only to South Africa but also to other countries in Southern Africa. In this connection, ECA was requested to provide, in collaboration with OAU and other institutions, assistance to countries which might encounter such possible transitional problems.

58. Some delegations expressed the view that the fast pace of events in South Africa appeared to have overtaken some of the data on which the analysis in the document was based. The document needed to be revised and updated. Some terms used in the document were found inappropriate reflecting as they did the legacy of apartheid. It was also felt that a document of this nature should have reflected the ANC's agenda for the socio-economic development of South Africa. The role of the private sector and the business community at large needed to be highlighted also.

59. Emphasizing that many measures were required for promoting South Africa's re-integration into Africa, the Committee suggested that action should be taken to foster people-to-people contacts between citizens of South Africa and other African countries; develop investors guide and profiles showing investment opportunities in South Africa and other African countries; and prepare a list of African treaties which South Africa would be required to sign.

60. The Committee acknowledged France's offer to organize a round-table of funding agencies for South Africa scheduled for June 1994.

61. The Committee took note of the report and adopted draft declaration DCL.1 (XV) on the re-integration of new non-racial democratic South Africa into Africa which appears as annex III of this report.

*Biennial Report of the Executive Secretary on the work of the Commission* (agenda item 4 (d))

62. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.20/4 entitled "Biennial Report of the Executive Secretary 1992-1993".

63. The Committee noted that the most significant outcome of the review of the work programme for the 1992-1993 biennium was the regrouping of the subprogrammes, leading to their reduction from twenty one to nine. This was designed to promote synergy among related subprogrammes and, at the same time, deepen the impact of the Commission's work in support of member States. The reorganization of the intergovernmental machinery of the Commission was also completed during the period.

64. The Committee noted the range of issues addressed by the Commission during the preceding biennium. These included macro- and micro-development issues and policies; human resources development and utilization; information systems development; economic cooperation and integration; agriculture and rural development; marine affairs; the special problems of the least developed, land-locked and island countries; public administration and fiscal affairs; social development; women in development; environment and development; human settlements; industrial development; trade development and cooperation; the external debt crisis; monetary and financial policies and strategies; natural resources and energy, including new and renewable sources of energy; science and technology for development; population; transport and communications; tourism; and statistical development.

65. The Committee noted that the United Nations provided ECA with resources to support a team of senior level experts to render short-term advisory services to member States and their IGOs. Since 1990, the experts under this programme had been constituted into the Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group (MRAG). The Group was conceived as an innovative response by ECA to the need for technical advisory services that would ensure that Africa's socio-economic development challenges were confronted from a multidisciplinary and multidimensional perspective.

66. It was noted that a series of training workshops had been held during the biennium on a variety of subjects. Among these were external debt, energy development, population, statistical development, information systems, agricultural development, human resources development, capacity building for development management and regional cooperation and integration, etc.

67. The Committee noted that the Commission continued to reinforce and expand its cooperation with other United Nations bodies. The United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force for the implementation of UN-NADAF, which convenes under the chairmanship of the Executive Secretary of the Commission, had demonstrated potential for ensuring the required coherence and coordination under the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development.

68. It was noted with encouragement that the secretariat's relationships with the two other African continental organizations were further strengthened during the biennium. OAU and ADB had joined ECA on various occasions in presenting Africa's position on key issues at international fora.

69. The Committee strongly recommended that the MULPOCs should be strengthened by providing them with adequate financial resources and skilled and dedicated personnel. It was also recommended that the Joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat should greatly strengthen the coordination of its activities in favour of regional projects. They should also extensively work with African and donor governments as well as multilateral agencies in raising financial resources for Africa.

70. The Committee proposed that ECA, in collaboration with OAU and ADB, should organize an economic summit of Africa's Heads of State and Government to take place within the next two years to review the continent's economic situation and discuss future development strategies.

71. The Committee commended the secretariat for the work accomplished and took note of the report.

## PART II.
## CONFERENCE THEME: ECA AT 35; BUILDING CRITICAL CAPACITIES IN AFRICA FOR ACCELERATED GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*Critical capacities in support of good governance, human rights, political stability, peace and security in Africa* [agenda item 5 (a)]

72. The Committee considered document E/ECA/-CM.20/7 entitled "Critical capacities in support of good governance, political stability, peace and security in Africa".

73. The Committee observed that without peace, development was impossible and without development, peace was not durable. It was further noted that bad policies or lack of good governance gave rise to conflicts. The Committee underscored the urgent need for building critical capacities in Africa in the area of conflict management.

74. The Committee further observed that Africa would lose opportunities for development unless it made serious efforts to utilize its limited financial resources for meaningful development. It was further stressed that African countries should strive to create conditions for justice and peace through governance by consent.

75. The Committee noted with satisfaction the establishment by OAU of a Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution. It emphasized that this OAU initiative should be recognized as an African initiative, designed for resolving African problems in an African way. The Committee recommended that for the purposes of improving institutional performance in the field of conflict prevention, management and resolution, the United Nations and OAU, together with subregional organizations, should develop joint training programmes for their staff on the settlement of disputes. The Committee further recommended that joint seminars and workshops should be organized for representatives of member States of OAU as well as international organizations whose activities were in the area of peace, security and stability.

76. The Committee underscored the need for effective funding of peace initiatives and observed that no peace efforts would endure in Africa unless the activities relating to peace, security and stability of OAU and other subregional organizations were effectively funded. The Committee noted that while external assistance to Africa was welcome, the required funding for conflict prevention, management and resolution must increasingly come from Africa.

77. The Committee suggested that ECA could play a role in post-conflict peace building by assisting in reconstruction, rehabilitation and development of countries ravaged by war. The Committee recommended the need for studies to be undertaken on ways of building capacity in the area of conflict prevention, management and resolution and the causes of these conflicts. The Committee, however, stressed that the success of conflict prevention, management and resolution depended fully on the political will and commitment of the African Governments.

78. The Committee took note of the report.

*Critical capacities for effective socio-economic policy analysis and management* [agenda item 5 (b)]

79. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.20/8 entitled "Critical capacities for effective socio-economic policy analysis and management".

80. The Committee noted that the current emphasis placed on competent socio-economic policy analysis in Africa was driven by two considerations. First, policy analysis has been a neglected dimension of development management in Africa. Second, competent policy analysis is a requirement for accurate diagnosis of socio-economic problems - an essential first step in development. The Committee also noted that there were three important issues in building policy analytic and management capacities. These were training in policy analysis and management; institutional framework for generating policy analysis; and supporting information infrastructure for policy analysis and management. The Committee took note of efforts by African regional and subregional institutions and associations as well as certain international institutions in building policy analytic and management capacity in Africa.

81. The Committee stressed that policy analysis and management capacity building efforts in Africa must focus on two broad goals in the 1990s, namely strengthening relationships and improved interface between African economic researchers and policy makers; and the establishment of effective mechanisms and strong processes for policy coordination and networking for the effective utilization of limited capacities. Noting that the public sector had a key role in development management, the Committee emphasized the need to strengthen the strategic planning functions of African Governments. Though many African countries were preoccupied with short-term economic crisis management, this should not result in abandoning long-term strategic planning for national development. It was emphasized that long-term strategic planning was an essential vehicle for integrating short- and medium-term economic programmes into promoting long-term development objectives. The need to examine the various forms of planning and their impact on national development was also stressed.

82. The Committee observed that the supportive role and attitudes of the civil service had not been encouraging despite recent reforms. Therefore, it suggested the enhancement of the capacity of the African public service which had been eroded over the years.

83. On the provision of information infrastructure for policy analysis and development management, the Committee noted ongoing efforts in the member States within the framework of the Addis Ababa Plan for Statistical Development in Africa. Hence, the need to strengthen institutional frameworks for information infrastructure at various African countries. The Committee recommended that database management should be developed at the national level by national committees; that monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for information infrastructure should be established, especially for forecasting systems; and that regional, subregional and international initiatives should be linked with national activities.

84. The Committee questioned the practice whereby policy research and design were undertaken largely by international institutions despite their lack of in-depth knowledge of African economies. Noting that some international institutions had an interest in promoting development paradigms which were often at variance with African realities, the Committee called for the strengthening of African institutions in areas of policy analysis and management. It noted, however, that many African institutions were hampered in the performance of this task due to inadequate resources. The Committee emphasized the need to remove these constraints.

85. The Committee recommended that national institutions, equipped to formulate and implement development policies, should be established. Since some African Governments did not have the capacity to fully privatize, privatization programmes should be designed in such a way as to avoid selling off enterprises at give-away prices.

86. The Committee took note of the national experiences in building policy analysis and development management reported by several delegations. Accordingly, the Committee requested the ECA secretariat to organize a series of seminars to promote sharing of various national experiences in the area of capacity building in policy analysis and management. In this respect, questionnaires could also be used to collect information on national experiences and disseminate the results. In this connection, some delegations said they had requested ECA to provide assistance for the preparation of an integrated programme for capacity building in policy analysis and management.

87. The Committee requested that the work programmes of the ECA-sponsored institutions should be tailored to the needs for capacity building at the national level. The Committee also recommended the strengthening of capacity building for women in development. Some delegations suggested that African regional organizations should assist African countries in strengthening their capacities for international negotiations and effective resource mobilization.

88. The Committee took note of the report in the light of these observations.

*Building, strengthening and effectively utilizing human capacities for sustained development in Africa* [agenda item 5 (c)]

89. Under this agenda item, the Committee examined document E/ECA/CM.20/9 entitled "Building, strengthening and effectively utilizing human capacities for sustained development in Africa".

90. The Committee noted that the situation of human capacity building was precarious in spite of existing potentials. A major factor and obstacle to the development and utilization of capacity was the limited access to education. There had been a decline in the gross school enrolment at all levels since the beginning of the 1980s. Between 1965 and 1970, total enrolment in Africa increased at an average annual rate of 5.6 per cent. Between 1970 and 1980, the rate increased to 8 per cent. However, between 1980 and 1991, the rate plummeted to 2.8 per cent. Moreover, the Committee deplored the high adult illiteracy rate in Africa. Indeed, the adult literacy rate in Africa was the lowest in the world. In 1991, the rate in sub-Saharan Africa was 61 per cent for men and 41 per cent for women, against 80 and 67 per cent respectively for East Asia and the Pacific and 87 and 83 per cent respectively for Latin America and the Caribbean. Another shortcoming was the high unemployment rate (which was 50 per cent in some countries), underemployment and the surging brain-drain. Moreover, the situation concerning access to adequate food and nutrition, a fundamental condition for human capacity building, was progressively worsening. Additionally, health indicators for Africa showed that the morbidity and mortality rates were higher than the rest of the world. Institutional support in the form of physical infrastructure was also weak and falling apart.

91. The Committee observed that the present situation concerning human capacity building in Africa was essentially related to the interaction of socio-economic, political and institutional factors such as the economic crisis which the continent was going through, the external debt burden and the collapse of the price of primary commodities, social upheavals and armed conflicts, the pursuit of ill-defined policies and existence of inappropriate development priorities. The Committee reaffirmed that security, growth and development in Africa depended undoubtedly on the extent to which Africans could build, strengthen and effectively utilize human capacities and define a framework for building human capacities. The main priorities for human capacity development in Africa were identified as the eradi-cation of illiteracy, provision of education at all levels, improvement of the health conditions and nutritional standards of the population, improvement and maintenance of the basic infrastructures, building the appropriate institutional framework for strengthening policy making, implementation, coordination and monitoring functions for human development, and the creation and sustainment of productive employment and income-generation opportunities.

92. To attain the above-stated objectives, a number of policy reforms and measures should be undertaken and implemented at the national, subregional and regional levels in the building and strengthening of human capacities. At the national level, appropriate education should be available. Education and training should be adopted to suit national needs. The existing scientific, technological and research institutions should be strengthened. Population policies should be adopted in line with development objectives. Production technology should be provided during training and extension services institutions should provide services to improve agricultural productivity. Support should be provided to the general population for primary health care as well as the general decentralization of development initiatives. The reforms undertaken at the national levels should be complemented by the efforts of international development agencies, bilateral partners, international and non-governmental organizations. Furthermore, member States should formulate strategies and common approaches in human and institutional capacity building and strengthening at the subregional and regional levels, particularly as related to supporting and strengthening human and institutional professional staff training; harmonizing national, subregional and regional networks for research and development; establishing regional cooperation in the production of teaching and research materials and equipment and creating networks for information exchange and common facilities for labour markets. The Committee noted that in the implementation of such programmes the highest priority should be given to investment in human capital, the building and maintenance of infrastructures and the improvement of institutional capacities.

93. The Committee encouraged the secretariat to prepare case studies comparing African countries with the experiences in other countries such as those in Asia and Latin America in the field of human resources development. The Committee observed that in the follow-up activities, the following considerations should be taken into account in human resources development: education programmes that would enable people to

generate employment, policies and development programmes that meet the qualitative and quantitative requirements of Africa and the integration of women in the productive sectors of the economy.

94. While noting that there were specific plans of action in different sectoral areas such as health, education, employment and underemployment and food, both at the level of the United Nations and at the regional level, the Committee stressed that these plans and the programmes and activities of the different institutions concerned with the development of human resources in Africa should be harmonized and coordinated. In this regard, the Committee requested the ECA secretariat, in collaboration with OAU and ADB, to coordinate the programmes for the strengthening and effective utilization of human capacities in Africa.

95. The Committee took note of the document taking into account the above-mentioned observations and adopted draft declaration DCL.2 (XV) on Human Development Plan of Action for Africa.

*Developing entrepreneurial capacities for public and private sector enterprise* [agenda item 5(d)]

96. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.20/10 entitled "Developing entrepreneurial capacities for public and private sector enterprise". The Committee stressed that entrepreneurship was one of the crucial requirements for sustainable economic and social development. For that reason, the development of entrepreneurial capacity should be accorded highest priority on the development agenda of African countries.

97. The Committee noted that colonial policies which had failed to encourage the development of indigenous entrepreneurial capacities and post-independence policies which overemphasized public enterprise for major investments in several African countries had led to the existing weaknesses of entrepreneurial capacities in the African region. It was, however, observed that a significant degree of entrepreneurial capacity expansion had occurred after independence in countries having mixed economies.

98. Lack of business confidence, poor management of national economies, unhelpful regulatory framework, poor infrastructure, political instability, uncoordinated business promotion and unattractive development policies were cited as some of the major constraints facing the development of entrepreneurial capacity building in the region. It was emphasized that in order to promote entrepreneurial capacity in the region, political stability, competent economic management, efficient civil service, improved institutional capacity for entrepreneurial support, regular government-business consultation, sound public infrastructure, improved mobilization of productive resources and efficient financial institutions were necessary.

99. Moreover, the whole range of entrepreneurial capacities including those in the informal sector, small-, medium-, large-scale enterprises and public enterprises should be promoted and supported. The Committee took note of the proposed actionable agenda to foster entrepreneurial capacity in Africa at the local, national, subregional and regional levels as well as proposals for developing entrepreneurial capacities in cooperation with Africa's external partners.

100. Several delegations presented their national experiences and described policies being pursued in public and private sector enterprises. Some of the countries had adopted investment codes designed to encourage private sector entrepreneurs. In many countries, several measures had been adopted to help the private sector. These included the establishment of small- and medium-scale business assistance funds; national institutions for the training of small-scale entrepreneurs; focal points for promoting business development and single offices where entrepreneurs could secure information needed for investment.

101. The Committee noted that some training institutes for entrepreneurs existed in the region and encouraged cooperation among such institutions in the African region. The Committee further underlined the importance of case studies of the experiences of Asian, Latin American and African countries in order to highlight the obstacles encountered in entrepreneurship development and ways to eliminate them. Employment-creation opportunities and the role of women in private sector entrepreneurial development were considered important areas of consideration by African countries.

102. The Committee took note of the activities and experiences of the International Trade Centre in small- and medium-scale enterprise development and of the cooperation arrangements of this Centre with ECA in the area of entrepreneurship training.

103. The Committee took note of the report.

*Building and utilizing physical infrastructural capacities in Africa* [agenda item 5(e)]

104. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.20/12 entitled "Building and utilizing physical infrastructural capacities in Africa".

105. The Committee noted with concern that the poor economic performance in many African countries since the 1980s had greatly reduced the level of gross investment and maintenance expenditures towards the physical infrastructures in African countries. Consequently, African countries had been unable to adequately preserve, modernize and

expand the capacity of their infrastructure, equipment and services. Physical Infrastructural facilities and services in Africa had, therefore, remained underdeveloped as compared to the other developing regions of the world. The Committee also noted the massive destruction and degradation of physical infrastructure that has occurred as a result of war in a number of member States and the grave problem this poses for reconstruction and development.

106. It was further noted that the rate of capacity utilization of existing infrastructure in the region was very low even though the existing capacity was insufficient to support sustainable economic development. There was widespread deterioration of installed capacity to the extent that some were either not operable or require extensive rehabilitation. Deterioration and under-utilization of infrastructural capacities was also attributed to lack of foreign exchange to import capital inputs. Much emphasis was placed on the need to increase capacity utilization in Africa as well as expansion, as clearly indicated, inter alia, in the programme of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II).

107. The Committee also underscored that the expansion and utilization of Africa's physical infrasturctural capacity must conform to the relevant programmes of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and the African Strategies for implementing that Agenda. The integration of environmental dimensions in all infrastructural development programmes would ensure that the provision of adequate physical structures do not contribute to environmental degradation.

108. An agenda for concerted action by African countries and their development partners for the development of the region's physical infrastructural capacities in the 1990s was agreed upon within the framework of existing programmes, particularly UNTACDA II. This framework of action focuses on such areas as human resources and institutional development, creating the capacity to manufacture in Africa some of the equipment and spare parts needed for infrastructural development, resource mobilization and regional cooperation.

109. The Committee took note of the document.

*Capacity building for food production, food security and self-sufficiency in Africa* [agenda item 5(f)]

110. The Committee considered document E/ECA/-CM.20/13 entitled "Capacity building for food production, food security and self-sufficiency in Africa".

111. The Committee noted that food security and food self-sufficiency was a major goal in the socio-economic development of Africa. However, the overall food and agricultural situation had not shown much improvement over the last three decades. This situation was partly attributable to the fact that in spite of the priority attached to development of the food and agricultural sector in African countries, concrete actions to realize this objective has been slow and uneven. The Committee emphasized the urgent need for African States both individually and collectively to implement such policy measures that would enhance food and agriculture development. These would include reform of agricultural policies, establishment of equitable systems of land tenure, payment of remunerative prices to producers, expansion of investment, liberalization of conditions for access to credit and providing the availability of efficient services for research, publicity and marketing.

112. The Committee underlined that strengthening human and infrastructural capacities in the area of food and agriculture was essential to increased food production. Accordingly, there was need to promote education and organizational skills of farmers in particular through popular participation based on forming mutual support producers groups. Organizationally, strengthening institutional capacities would enable improvement of certain essential functions including decision making, optimum resource allocation and utilization and regulation and stabilization of economic processes. On the other hand, strengthening infrastructural capacities would ensure the establishment and the maintenance of the means necessary for guaranteeing food security. This included availability of suitable support services both at the level of the public sector and that of the private sector, transport infrastructure, provision of drinking water, irrigation, storage and distribution.

113. The Committee recognized that Africa did not lack programmes of action and strategies for developing the food and agriculture sector but that these had not been vigorously implemented. It acknowledged that, despite the adverse effects of certain exogenous factors such as the debt burden and deterioration of terms of trade, inappropriate public policies had contributed to the poor performance of the food and agriculture sector. Consequently, it recommended the transfer of certain activities for promoting food security to the private sector and to various social organizations.

114. The Committee acknowledged the need to promote a balance between natural resource exploitation and environmental protection, especially in the marginal zones where intensification of activities could speed up the desertification process. Furthermore, uncontrolled use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides could have adverse effects on production. The Committee recommended that African countries should encourage their citizens through appropriate incentives to consume natural food and agricultural products, to avoid a situation where Africa produced more of what it did not consume and consumed more of what it did not produce.

115. The importance of the quantitative and qualitative contribution of the livestock sector to food security was also emphasized.

116. With regard to the diversification of agricultural production, the Committee stressed that such activities should not be limited only to the aspect of expansion of the basic product range but rather should additionally pursue domestic processing of products on local production lines and also expand marketing outlets. It was considered that the process could be assisted by targeted and restricted subsidies spread over time.

117. The Committee encouraged member States to use the assistance available from international agricultural research centres and other institutions providing information on the factors impacting on the environment. Increased use of early-warning systems which could prevent certain natural disasters such as drought, floods and delayed rains and crop pests such as birds and insects were similarly encouraged.

118. The Committee noted the report in the light of the observations outlined above.

*Capacities to exploit natural resources and diversify African economies into processing and manufacturing* [agenda item 5(g)]

119. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.20/14 entitled "Capacities to exploit natural resources and diversify African economies into processing and manufacturing"

120. The Committee underscored the need to have capacities to exploit natural resources in order to produce goods and services that meet the needs of the region while, at the same time, being externally competitive. The Committee noted that to achieve this goal, it was necessary to have the appropriate critical human skills and supportive institutional capacities.

121. The Committee noted that the African region as a whole was well-endowed with a variety of natural resources such as land, water, fauna and flora, different energy resources and a diversity of metallic and non-metallic minerals. It, however, observed that the continent's natural resources were not fully and efficiently used and processed locally. For instance, minerals and fossil fuels were mainly exported in crude or semi-processed form, with only about 10 per cent processed and used locally. One of the characteristics of Africa's industrial sector was that it was import-dependent for intermediate inputs, equipment and replacement of parts. In addition, it was noted that most African countries relied on foreign supplies for a substantial part of manufactured products for consumption.

122. The Committee underlined the need for African countries to move away from high dependency on producing and exporting primary commodities, and to develop balanced economies in which emphasis was given to agricultural and food production and natural resources extraction with the production of manufactured goods as well as provision of services to support indigenous production. There was need to increase the share of manufacturing in the total regional GDP from the current low level of 10.6 per cent as well as to increase the use of existing industrial capacity of which only between 30 to 50 per cent was being utilized.

123. The Committee called for sound national economic policies within the framework of well-conceived strategic plans supported by political climate favourable to industrial development. The role of science and technology was seen as crucial to the process of industrialization in developing capacities to exploit fully available natural resources. There was need to make use of existing regional institutions to develop human skills for industrial development. These institutions included the African Regional Centre for Engineering, Design and Manufacturing (ARCEDEM), the Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS), among others. The Committee urged member States to support these institutions, many of which were not presently being effectively used. The Committee took note of the information provided on the training activities of RECTAS since 1972. The training activities covered aerospace and geophysical surveys, photogrammetry, remote sensing and cartography

124. The Committee recognized that exploration and exploitation of mineral resources required considerable investments. There was thus need to attract investments from appropriate multinational corporations in the mineral development sector. In general, the Committee emphasized that foreign direct investment in African industrialization was essential in Africa's economic development. Moreover, it was stressed that African multinational enterprises should be promoted in order to stimulate regional economic integration.

125. The Committee observed that there was little trade among African countries, while there was a lot more trade between Africa and the outside world. The Committee supported the need to foster regional trade, cooperation and integration which should benefit the continent's industrialization process.

126. The Committee noted that many of the aspects of the strategy proposed in the document had been derived from the programme for the United Nations second Industrial Development Decade for Africa. The Committee endorsed the strategy proposed and reiterated the importance of investment in human and institutional capacities. The Committee suggested that analysis of issues of

water and renewable energy resources in the document should be improved.

127. The Committee took note of the document.

*Critical capacities for the mobilization and efficient allocation of domestic and external financial resources* [agenda item 5(h)]

128. The Committee considered document E/ECA/-CM.20/11 entitled "Critical capacities for the mobilization and efficient allocation of domestic and external financial resources".

129. The Committee noted that the mobilization and efficient allocation of financial resources underlined all the other areas of capacity building and utilization and, therefore, deserved careful consideration. In this regard, an attempt to establish the order of magnitude of the domestic and external financial resource requirements was worthwhile at this stage even though, at such an early stage, before elaborating the necessary programmes and lists of projects for building critical capacities in Africa, it would not be possible to make accurate assessments.

130. The Committee reviewed the assumptions of the quantitative macroeconomic model used by the secretariat to estimate domestic and external financing requirements for ECA's 52 member States over the 20-year period 1995-2015. Financial resource requirements were computed with a view to accelerating Africa's economic growth to an average annual rate of 6 per cent over 1995-2005 in line with the growth targets within UN-NADAF over the 1990s, rising to 7 per cent over 1995-2015. The quality of investment and the efficiency of capital was expected to increase steadily over the first 10 years. The model incorporated the Enhanced Toronto Terms for the rescheduling and reduction of bilateral debt. It was also assumed that the rate of growth of exports could be brought to 12 per cent per annum within 10 years.

131. The Committee reviewed the findings flowing from these assumptions. In order to achieve the stated growth targets, over 1995-2005, the gross domestic investment rate would have to be boosted from the prevailing low levels of about 20 per cent of GDP to the range of 30-40 per cent. To finance the increased investment rate, over the same period, the gross domestic savings rate would have to be raised from the current level of about 18 per cent of GNP to the range of 30-35 per cent. These orders of magnitude of the domestic investment and savings efforts needed to meet the UN-NADAF growth targets, represented an indication of the Herculean task that was entailed in the implementation of the New Agenda. Nonetheless, it was suggested that further studies should be undertaken which will explore the savings targets of alternative growth rate scenarios.

132. It was observed that the bulk of the financial resources required for domestic capital investment for capacity building in Africa in the next two decades would have to come from domestic savings. External savings, while crucial, would play a supplementary role. Nonetheless, substantial external resource requirements would be required. Over the period 1995-2005, $433.8 billion (in 1994 dollars) would be required to close the investment minus domestic savings gap, while $445.6 billion (in current dollars) would be needed to finance Africa's trade deficits. In this regard, the Committee observed that the region faced two interlinked gaps - the external trade gap and the internal investment minus domestic savings gap. Africa's sustained economic growth over the next decade or two would depend critically on the goodwill and forbearance of Africa's external partners to supply financing for these two gaps.

133. To cover external debt-servicing requirements, $434.7 billion would be required over the 10-year period. The Committee noted that the amount of resources to be absorbed by external debt servicing were quite substantial, amounting to 50 per cent of Africa's gross external financing requirements. The Committee thus called upon Africa's creditors to take concrete steps to reduce Africa's debt burden. The bilateral creditors should implement the Trinidad Terms of debt reduction. Steps also needed to be taken to reduce the burden of debt owed to multilateral finance institutions - for example, by converting all non-concessional World Bank debts to concessional IDA terms, and by limited sales of the IMF's gold holdings to underwrite IMF debt reduction. The Committee stressed that it was entirely in the hands of Africa's creditors to reduce the debt burden that is choking economic growth in the African countries.

134. Still on the question of external debt, the Committee was of the opinion that two types of debt needed to be identified: old debt, inherited from the past, and new debt expected to build up after 1995 as a consequence of financing capacity building for accelerated growth. Old debt needed to be substantially reduced by Africa's external creditors and development partners so that it ceases to frighten investment flows away from Africa. On the other hand, the Committee stressed, African countries needed to build competent institutional capacities to manage external financial commitments, minimize exposure to various risks and ensure that scarce resources were channelled to their most productive applications. To this end, it was recommended that African countries establish debt management units within their Ministries of Finance or in their central banks. The Committee noted ECA's willingness to provide technical assistance to member States in establishing such units.

135. The Committee noted that the gross domestic investment and savings rates recommended by the secretariat's model were rather high, in view of the

low rates that had prevailed in Africa over the last decade or so. It was observed, however, that South-East Asian economies, particularly China, had been able to sustain comparable rates while still at per capita income levels not much greater than those in Africa.

136. It was the opinion of the Committee that it would be necessary to deepen economic reforms in the member States, aimed at boosting economic efficiency and productivity in order to improve capital efficiency and raise the rate of return from investment. It was also absolutely necessary to implement reforms to strengthen member countries' financial sectors to increase their capacities to mobilize and allocate domestic financial resources efficiently. Among the range of policy reforms that were needed, the Committee identified, inter alia, the need to down-size public ownership while encouraging indigenous as well as foreign private equity in the banking and other financial institutions; stimulating a measure of competition in the financial sector; public enterprise reforms; and strengthening the legal and regulatory framework, including the supervisory role of national central banks.

137. The Committee noted the continued dynamism of informal financial institutions in practically all the African countries, in contrast to the weaknesses in the formal markets. In this regard, the Committee was of the opinion that links should be strengthened between the formal and informal financial markets in Africa to expand the system of financial intermediation. It was observed that both the formal and informal financial markets had a role to play in mobilizing resources, and they could benefit from working together.

138. Turning to the regional dimension of financial resource mobilization, the Committee proposed that firstly, financial institutional capacity building should be carried out by member States through collaboration among themselves. This would enable countries to learn from each other's experiences with financial sector reforms. Secondly, it would also result in identical institutions. This would reduce inter-country trade and financial transactions costs and facilitate economic integration. Thirdly, collaboration would promote the emergence of capital markets such as stock exchanges, mutual funds and insurance companies whose success crucially depended on economies of scale. In the medium to long term, African countries needed to take concrete steps towards establishing common currencies in each subregional economic community.

139. The Committee was of the opinion that quantitative analytical exercises, such as the one used to estimate the order of magnitude of financial resources for accelerated growth in Africa, served a very useful purpose, and the Commission was encouraged to continue in this direction. It was recommended that the Commission should make an effort to draw sectoral implications of economic growth and allocation of resources. In view of the usefulness of quantitative analytical techniques and the weaknesses in the member States, the Committee recommended that ECA extend technical assistance to the member States to help them build capacity in this field.

140. The Committee took note of the report.

## PART III.
## REGIONAL AND GLOBAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

*Policy convergence for regional economic cooperation and integration: Implementation of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community*
[agenda item 6(a)]

141. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.20/15 entitled "Policy convergence for regional economic cooperation and integration: Implementation of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community".

142. The Committee noted with satisfaction the ratification by 35 African countries of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community and the coming into force of the Treaty on 12 May 1994. The Community constituted the framework within which the process of regional integration would be pursued. It was noted that the existing subregional economic communities such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), formed building blocks of the African Economic Community.

143. The Committee was informed that members of the Indian Ocean Commission (without Réunion island) were also members of PTA. ECA was closely working with the IOC in the development of inter-island transport, the coordination of flight schedules of the various companies operating in the region and in marine resources development.

144. The Committee urged the intensification of harmonization and coordination of the activities of these subregional organizations in the implementation of the Treaty. It was noted that according to the Treaty provisions, there would be one subregional community in each subregion, in the long term. These single subregional communities would result from the harmonization and rationalization of the various economic groupings in each of the subregions through the concentric circles approach.

145. The Committee reviewed the principles and instruments for policy convergence. Among the areas examined in this context included the adoption and implementation of endogenous development strategies based on the Monrovia Declaration

entrenching Africa's four-prong integration approach (infrastructures - production - trade liberalization - policy convergence) and sectoral harmonization and convergences in various fields. The sectors include trade liberalization; free movement of goods and persons; money, finance and payments; food and agriculture; industry, science and technology, energy, natural resources and environment; environment - control of toxic wastes; transport, communications and tourism; and human resources, social affairs, health and population. It was noted that sectoral harmonization around joint programmes could help rationalize economic groupings on concrete grounds.

146. The Committee emphasized the need for macroeconomic policy convergence with reference to exchange rates, price differentials and their roles in trade liberalization as well as the harmonization of sectoral development. An observation was made that where convergence was not possible, emphasis should be put on harmonizing policies. Harmonization was a step towards convergency of policies. The Committee insisted on the need for strong regional institutional frameworks to promote economic integration in the continent. The Committee was cautioned against approaches such as the "variable geometry" and other initiatives not compatible with the Abuja Treaty and called for the rapid harmonization between all economic and monetary communities with the Abuja Treaty for the establishment of the African Economic Community.

147. The Committee emphasized that the implementation of the Treaty was a matter of utmost importance for Africa. There was need for African countries to work together collectively and form a strong bargaining power. To promote and facilitate the implementation of the Treaty, there was need to prevent and reduce political conflicts; increase trade among African countries as well as integrate production and markets; encourage coherent development policies, popular participation and involvement of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the process of development; define the roles of the State and private sector in development; define technological policies and training needs as well as develop human resources; have common currencies; show real political will and commitment in the implementation of the Treaty; give priority to agriculture and food production; and encourage South-South cooperation.

148. The Committee noted incompatibilities between orthodox structural adjustment programmes, which induced uncoordinated devaluations, high interest rates, financial austerity adversely affecting the funding of research on one hand, and investments in regional infrastructures on the other. There was need for SAPs policies to consider the regional dimension of development and take into account the need for economic transformation. There was also need for continued dialogue with the World Bank on issues relating to SAPs so as to eventually reach common understanding on how best Africa's development could be promoted.

149. The Committee urged development partners to ensure that their policies and practices promoted self-reliance and sustainable development in the African region. The Committee warned that complete reliance on outside resources to implement the Treaty would not achieve the desired goals. Africans should demonstrate their commitment by providing financial and material support for the implementation of the Treaty. Available resources from development partners should complement African efforts towards the effective implementation of Africa's own programmes.

150. The Committee took note of the information provided by the representative of ADB on his organization's willingness to fund multinational projects, provided such projects were viable. It also took note of the information provided by the representative of UNDP on its past support to African regional and subregional programmes and the support it hoped to provide in the implementation of the Treaty. Furthermore, the Committee welcomed the appeal made by the representative of the ACP secretariat for the organization to be associated and involved in the implementation of the Abuja Treaty. ACP had some funds for regional cooperation that could be tapped for the implementation of the Treaty. However, the Committee suggested that the procedures for accessing and utilizing ACP funds be made less cumbersome. The Committee also noted with appreciation the International Trade Centre's intra-African trade development and promotion activities in the context of regional economic integration, specially those related to trade information, supply and demand surveys, buyers/sellers meetings, and urged the Centre to cooperate with ECA, OAU, ADB and AATPO in assisting in the implementation of the Abuja Treaty.

151. The Committee noted that achieving regional integration through the Treaty would require perseverance and commitment. Thus, every effort should be made to remove all obstacles and promote those factors that facilitated its implementation. In this context, there was need for the Treaty to be publicized widely in all member States. There was also need to mobilize the economic operators and promote popular participation for the implementation of the Treaty. The Committee took note that the Joint ECA/OAU/ADB Secretariat would publicize the Treaty adequately.

152. The Committee took note of the document.

*Anticipated impact of the Uruguay Round agreements on African economies: A preliminary analysis* (agenda item 6(b))

153. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.20/31 entitled "Anticipated impact of the Uruguay Round agreements on African economies: A preliminary analysis".

154. The Committee noted that the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of negotiations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the Final Act of which was signed in Marrakesh two weeks previously had ushered in a new era in international trade. Trade liberalization under the new agreement was generally expected to boost world trade by about $200 billion annually. As much as 70 per cent of the benefits from expanded trade, however, would accrue to the developed market economies while among the developing countries, 16, 11 and 3 per cent would accrue to China, the economies of Asia-the Pacific and South-East Asia and Latin America respectively. On the other hand, the African countries as a group would gain least from the agreement and, indeed, could incur losses initially estimated at $2.6 billion annually from the implementation of the agreement.

155. The Committee noted that tariff reductions on commodities of export interest to African countries by the major trading partners, namely the European Union, Japan and the United States, would eliminate benefits under the general system of preferences (GSP) (including the special case of energy products) and the Lomé Convention which African countries had enjoyed previously. On the other hand, the reduction of agricultural production and export subsidies would result in an increase in world prices for food products (in the order of 5 per cent, rising to 10 per cent for cereals) which would have a negative impact on Africa which was a net food importer.

156. With regard to textiles and apparel, the Committee noted that it was premature to assess the quantitative impact before the complete dismantling of the quotas under the Multi-Fibre Agreement. The Committee expressed concern, however, about the establishment of "a mechanism of provisional safeguards" to protect the industrialized countries from strong market fluctuations and the "establishment of an Office for supervision of textiles" as stipulated in the draft Final Act, since these measures could be used to perpetuate market protection against the developing countries.

157. The Committee also discussed the major provisions of the Final Act in the new areas of particular interest to African countries, notably articles IV and XIX of the Services Agreement; obligations relating to agreements on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs); articles 2, 5 and 6 of the Agreement on Trade-related Investment Measures (TRIMs); and the governance structure of the World Trading Organization (WTO).

158. Noting the importance to Africa of all these agreements under the Uruguay Round, the Committee regretted that African interests had not been adequately taken into account in the negotiations. The Committee noted that while the GATT negotiations took place within a contractual framework where parties participated on an individual basis, the member States of the European Union acted collectively. In view of the above, it was suggested that when the African Economic Community is fully established, African countries should adopt common negotiating positions in international trade issues. The Committee was of the opinion that the Tunis Declaration on the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, adopted by the African Ministers of Trade at their twelfth session held in Tunis in October 1993, which set up a support mechanism for African countries in future negotiations and in the implementation of the Final Act, was a step in the right direction. The Committee also applauded the efforts by the ECA Executive Secretary to foster collaboration among the African Ministers in Marrakesh prior to the signing of the Final Act of Uruguay as a first step towards the creation of such a mechanism.

159. The Committee emphasized that African countries should implement policy measures aimed at maximizing the potential benefits from the agreement and mitigating the negative repercussions. To this end, the Committee recommended that the ECA secretariat, in collaboration with regional organizations, especially OAU and ADB, should carry out assessments and follow-up studies of the impacts of the agreement on African economies. In doing so, it was emphasized that ECA should generate its own data rather than base its assessments on data derived from non-African organizations. The Committee also suggested that ECA should organize seminars to increase awareness of the agreements of the impact of the Uruguay Round for Africa. Such seminars could take place at the same time as subregional and regional buyer/seller meetings organized by the International Trade Centre.

160. The Committee expressed the conviction that member States could benefit from the experience of those African countries which had finished or were about to undertake a preliminary assessment of the impact of these agreements on its economy. The Centre informed the Committee of its experience in this area and offered to assist member States in their evaluation efforts. The Committee noted that the African countries which are members of the ACP group could take advantage of the provisions of annexes 27 and 29 of the Lomé Convention which permitted amendments to be made to provisions of the Convention to mitigate losses under the agreement.

161. The Committee emphasized that ultimately, African countries needed a comprehensive strategy for structural transformation and diversification of the production and export base, with the aim of boosting competitiveness, if African countries are to participate fully in the new international trading system. In this regard, it was necessary to intensify economic diversification and intra-African trade to build regional competitiveness through economies of scale.

162. The Committee took note of the report.

*African Strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21 and the African Common Position on Environment and Development* [agenda item 6(c)]

163. The Committee considered document E/ECA/-CM.20/16 entitled "Implementation of the African Strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21 and the African Common Position on Environment and Development: Progress report".

164. The Committee noted that since the adoption of the Strategies, efforts had been made to incorporate them in national, subregional and regional environment and development programmes. The Strategies have also taken into consideration during the negotiations for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification, the preparations for the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, and the mid-term review of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR).

165. The Committee noted with appreciation the active participation of member States in the activities of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-D) for the elaboration of the International Convention to Combat Desertification and Mitigate Drought, parti-cularly in Africa. Concern was expressed about the difficulties being experienced in the negotiations regarding resource commitments from the developed countries and institutional arrangements for implementing the Convention. The Committee hoped that Africa's development partners would address these issues positively. The Committee regretted that the funding of activities to combat desertification were not included as a window of the Global Environment Facility. It expressed the hope that the situation would be corrected in the future.

166. Special appreciation was extended to those member States that were chairmen of working groups and spokesmen of different aspects of the negotiations, particularly on the regional instrument of the Convention for Africa and to the ad hoc Expert Group and the Joint OAU/ECA/UNSO/UNEP/-ADB Secretariat for their contributions to the negotiations.

167. The Committee encouraged development planners and private sector agents to undertake environmental impact assessments and environmental management of projects and programmes to ensure that environmental degradation was kept to its minimum. Regarding issues on biological diversity, the Committee noted with satisfaction that preparations for a regional conference to develop Africa's approach to the implementation of the convention on biodiversity were under way and requested to be kept informed of the outcome.

168. The Committee recalled that the Conference of Ministers at its nineteenth meeting had urged that the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) should strengthen its collaboration with the Conference of Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning, particularly in matters relating to Agenda 21 and the implementation of the Strategies. To this effect, it recommended that the ECA Executive Secretary should continue, in the spirit of resolution 744 (XXVIII), to study the modalities for harmonizing the mandates of the two intergovernmental bodies of the Commission. This should be done with a view to enabling AMCEN and the Ministers responsible for economic and social development and planning, to jointly review the environment and development programmes of member States.

169. The Committee took note of the report.

*Preparations for global conferences* [agenda item 6(d)]

(i) World Summit for Social Development;
(ii) Fourth World Conference on Women;
(iii) International Conference on Population and Development;
(iv) Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II); and
(v) World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction

170. The Committee considered reports regarding each conference as follows:

(i) *Preparatory activities of the World Summit for Social Development: Progress report* (E/ECA/CM.20/17)

171. The Committee recalled ECA Conference of Ministers resolution 749 (XXVII) which decided on the formulation of an African Common Position for submission to the World Summit for Social Development scheduled to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark from 6 to 12 March 1995.

172. The Committee took note of the fact that the African Common Position on Human and Social Development in Africa which was adopted by the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Human Development had been presented to the Preparatory Committee of the World Social Summit held in New York from 31 January to 11 February

1994. It also noted that the Common Position provided an assessment of the state of human and social development in Africa; outlined Africa's major human and social development objectives; elaborated an actionable agenda for human and social development; and set out the modalities for implementing, monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the Common Position.

173. The Committee also reviewed the core issues to be addressed by the World Summit, together with the policy measures to attain its objectives in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/92.

174. The Committee recommended that the African Common Position on Human and Social Development in Africa be widely disseminated within the region. Against the background of the prevailing brain-drain of skilled professionals, the Committee suggested the establishment of an African employment market. It urged that greater attention be paid to the unemployment and underemployment phenomena and stressed the need to emphasize the research aspects of social development.

(ii) *Preparatory activities of the fourth World Conference on Women: Progress report* (E/ECA/CM.20/13)

175. The Committee noted the preparatory activities by ECA for the regional Conference on Women scheduled to take place in Dakar, Senegal from 14 to 23 November 1994, to be preceded by an NGO conference on women. There will also be a Franco-African Conference on Women to be held in June 1994. These activities largely comprised the mobilization of men and women at all levels towards enhancing the status of women; and an evaluation of the achievements regarding the major goals of equality, development and peace. In this regard, the Committee indicated that the foci of the regional activities would be to consolidate national efforts at advancing the status and role of women in development, identify common issues affecting countries and adopt a common regional platform of action to ensure increased role of women in development which would be incorporated in the global Platform of Action to be adopted by the World Conference.

176. The Committee also noted that at the national level, countries were expected to set up national committees to coordinate national activities including the preparation of national reports for the Conference and appraise the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies (NFLS), as well as the targets set in the Abuja Declaration. It therefore directed that information on both issues be widely disseminated. The Committee took note of the International Trade Centre's programmes in promoting women in trade development (WITD).

177. The Committee raised issues regarding lack of coordination in the various studies that focused on women. Such studies should, among other things, focus on female youths and refugees. The Committee regretted the delays in submission of national reports and suggested the setting up of a special committee to accelerate the preparatory process. Given the inadequate national expertise and data constraints in member States with respect to preparing the national reports on the status of women, the Committee requested ECA to assist in providing guidelines and supplying relevant information where available to member States for the preparation of these reports. In this respect, the Committee encouraged national committees entrusted with the task of preparing the national reports to also liaise with UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, ILO and the MULPOC offices. It agreed to the suggestion to extend the deadline for submission of the national reports from 31 March to 30 May 1994. The Committee noted with appreciation the fact that some OECD countries have given financial assistance to African countries for the preparatory process.

(iii) *Preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD): Progress report* (E/ECA/CM.20/19 and E/ECA/CM.20/19/Add.1)

178. The Committee noted the activities at the national, regional and global levels towards the International Conference on Population and Development scheduled to be held from 5 to 13 September 1994 in Cairo, Egypt. It urged all member States to send high-level delegations to the ICPD and to work in solidarity with regard to the African Common Position at the Conference. The Committee noted with satisfaction the assistance provided by UNFPA and USAID to enable several African countries to participate actively in the third meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PREPCOM III) held from 4 to 22 April 1994 in New York.

179. The Committee also noted that member States had established national committees on population to prepare the national reports on population (using guidelines provided by the ICPD secretariat) and to initiate public awareness both for the Conference and for population issues in general.

180. At the regional level, the Committee noted that preparatory activities involved three Preparatory Committee (PREPCOM) meetings and the organization of the third African Population Conference (APC.3). It was also noted that at the global PREPCOM III in New York, the African member States called for the establishment of subregional and regional mechanisms to follow-up on the implementation of both the outcome of ICPD and the Dakar/Ngor Declaration.

181. It noted that APC.3, which was held in Dakar, Senegal from 7 to 12 December 1992, adopted the

Dakar/Ngor Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development, set demographic targets to operationalize an accelerated implementation of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on African population and self-reliant development and recommended the establishment of a Follow-up Committee to monitor the implementation of the Declaration.

182. The Committee further noted that the Dakar/-Ngor Declaration would constitute the African Common Position on population at the ICPD and that the first session of the Follow-up Committee had been held on 24 and 25 March 1994 in Addis Ababa. It reviewed the recommendations of the Follow-up Committee requiring action by the ECA Conference of Ministers. It appealed to member States which had not designated focal points for the follow-up on the implementation of the Dakar/-Ngor Declaration to do so and supported the convening of the Follow-up Committee after the ICPD.

183. The Committee appreciated the efforts of OAU, in cooperation with ECA, to submit the Dakar/Ngor Declaration for approval by Heads of State and Government at the Tunis Summit. It also welcomed the proposal to establish, under the aegis of OAU, the African Population Commission to be serviced by the Joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat.

184. The Committee appealed to UNFPA and other donor agencies to support the implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration at both national and regional levels. It also urged these donors to extend financial assistance for the participation of African countries at the Cairo Conference. It commended France for its support which it had already provided to ECA towards implementing the Dakar/Ngor Declaration.

(iv) *Report on preparations for the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements* (E/ECA/CM.20/32)

185. The Committee noted that the second United Nations Conference (Habitat II) was scheduled to be held from 3 to 14 June 1996 in Turkey. It further noted that each country was to prepare a national report (for the world summit) providing an assessment of human settlements and shelter strategy as well as country-specific reviews, formulating shelter and sustainable settlements objectives and indicating technical and financial assistance options.

186. The Committee noted that the issue of Africa's preparation for Habitat II had been discussed at a special meeting of African Ministers responsible for Human Settlements, the seventh meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment, the fifty-eighth ordinary session of OAU and consultations between secretariats of ECA and UNCHS (Habitat). At the global level, activities included the organization of necessary technical assistance and financing for the preparation of reports at various levels.

187. Three global meetings had also been held, namely the fourteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements, the Preparatory Committee and the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee.

(v) *Mid-term Regional Report for Africa on the implementation of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction* (E/ECA/CM.20/30 and E/ECA/-CM.20/30/Add.1)

188. The Committee noted that the World Conference was scheduled to be held from 23 to 27 May 1994 in Yokohama, Japan and that in the course of the present decade, the international community would pay special attention to fostering international cooperation in reducing various forms of natural disasters.

189. Towards this end, the Committee hoped that all countries likely to be inflicted by natural disasters would strengthen their mechanisms for natural disaster preparedness and management. This would entail development of guidelines and strategies for actions; fostering scientific research and disseminating findings; and development of measures for the assessment, prediction, prevention and mitigation of natural disasters. These goals would be achieved through programmes of technical assistance and technology transfer, demonstration projects, education and training tailored to specific hazards and locations.

190. At the national level, the affected countries would need to initiate public awareness and information campaigns and develop the outlines of a disaster management training strategy devoted to building an effective response capacity for sudden onset of disasters. National committees had been set up to provide relief in response to sudden disaster. It was noted, however, that resource deficiencies constituted a major impediment to efficient disaster mitigation.

191. The Committee was informed of preparations for and the organization of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction to be held from 23 to 27 May 1994 in Yokohama, Japan. In that regard, the African Common Position adopted ad referendum by the fifty-ninth ordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers was presented in outline and substance.

192. The Committee took note of this presentation.

193. The Committee appealed to African countries to participate in a concerted manner at the Yokohama Conference on the mid-term review of the International Decade for Natural Disaster

Reduction and for development partners to extend financial assistance to African countries for this purpose.

194. The Committee took note of all five reports on the preparations for the forthcoming global conferences. It adopted draft resolutions 3 (XV) on preparations for the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and 4 (XV) on the preparation for the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, Yokohama, Japan, 23-27 May 1994.

*The African Federation of Women Entrepreneurs and the creation of an African bank for women: Progress Report* [agenda Item 6(e)]

195. The Committee considered document E/ECA/-CM.20/20 entitled "The African Federation of Women Entrepreneurs (AFWE) and the creation of an African Bank for women: Progress report".

196. The Committee noted with satisfaction that pursuant to resolution 736 (XXVII) of the eighteenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers, the African Federation of Women Entrepreneurs was created in June 1993, in Accra, Ghana. The objectives of the Federation are principally to build women capacities so as to enable them to contribute to economic and social development; form a pressure group to ensure that the interests of businesswomen were considered in the economic policies of the countries; increase the level of production and management of women economic activities particularly in the informal sector; and facilitate women's access to financial resources.

197. The Committee took note of the major activities undertaken by the Executive Committee of the Federation since its inception. Those activities included, inter alia, the elaboration of a programme of work for the period 1994-1997 which essentially centred on promotional activities for capacity building and the adoption of mechanisms for collaboration with national and subregional women associations. The Committee also noted that the Federation had been registered in Ethiopia in order to use ECA facilities in the execution of its activities.

198. With regard to the creation of an African bank for women, the Committee noted that a comprehensive feasibility study was indeed required. Such a study should spell out the operational modalities of the bank, resource mobilization strategies, target groups and procedures for granting and applying for credits at the national, subregional and regional levels. ECA should convene a committee of experts to consider this subject.

199. The Committee further remarked that the African countries should give African women every opportunity to fully contribute to the continent's sustainable development. In this respect, it was recognized that even if most countries of the continent did not differentiate between men and women in the granting of business and other opportunities, sensitization against the negative stereotypes of African women must continue. National women federations were expected to play a major role in this regard.

200. The Committee acknowledged that banks should exercise some flexibility when it comes to guarantees for the granting of loans to women. In turn, women should present viable and quality projects. Finally, the Committee noted with satisfaction the many activities undertaken by such organizations as the International Trade Centre in order to ensure the advancement of women in Africa's business sector. The Committee also noted ITC's request to be a member of the Committee entrusted with the follow-up of the feasibility of creating an African bank for women.

201. The Committee took note of the report under consideration.

*Rationalization and harmonization of ECA-sponsored institutions* [agenda item 6(f)]

202. The Committee considered document E/ECA/-CM.20/21 entitled "Rationalization and harmonization of ECA-sponsored institutions".

203. The Committee underscored the importance of making the ECA-sponsored institutions cost-effective and viable. It noted the recommendations in the study carried out by the secretariat with the assistance of the Ad hoc Committee of Ten with regard to the rationalization and harmonization of ECA-sponsored institutions, in particular by providing cost-benefit analysis of the mergers proposed. The Committee noted that the new study which proposed the consolidation of eleven institutions into three was a follow-up to the one presented to the 1993 meeting of the Conference of Ministers.

204. The Committee appreciated that the new study contained many details about the sponsored institutions. To that extent, it represented a significant improvement on the first study presented to the 1993 meeting of the Conference of Ministers. However, it was observed that the new study still lacked such details as evaluation of capital assets of the institutions and proposals for dealing with redeployment and lay-off of staff in the cases of mergers. Moreover, the new study focused on the merits of mergers without adequate analysis of disadvantages of mergers. It also lacked detailed analysis of the implications of the proposed mergers for the host countries to these institutions. Questions were also raised about whether all institutions and host countries were visited as required in resolution 754 (XXVIII) of 1993, and whether a thorough study of users of services of these institutions had been done. It was observed that most of these issues were already covered in previous

studies on the subject both by the secretariat and the Committee of Ten.

205. The Committee nonetheless emphasized that, given the dire financial situation of most of the sponsored institutions, the need for their rationalization and harmonization was urgent. In doing so, however, the following considerations should be borne in mind, namely that the choice of headquarters of merged institutions has to be made by governments. In merging small and big institutions, it made sense to take the small institutions to the location of the big ones, provided that the host country meets the stipulated criteria.

206. Underlining the need to give some of the institutions time to achieve financial viability, the Committee urged these institutions to increase their income-generating activities and strengthen their capacity for resource mobilization. In this regard, it was suggested that the institutions should market their products and services, particularly in the area of consultancies and research. They should also endeavour to commercialize the products of their research. The Committee noted that UNDP has given financial assistance to many of these institutions for a long period. However, it was emphasized that funding agencies such as UNDP should stand ready to lend their support when the mergers would have been eventually decided upon, so as to have the merged institutions build up their self-financing capability.

207. The Committee endorsed the importance of mobilizing resources from Africa's development partners and recommended that the leadership of ECA-sponsored institutions should play a vital role in mobilizing resources in collaboration with ECA and other relevant United Nations agencies to support the institutions' programmes and advance the fulfilment of their objectives. The Committee appealed to all the member States who had not paid their contributions and/or arrears to these institutions to do so in order to enhance their capacities and effectiveness.

208. The Committee took note of the report and recommended that it be distributed for in-depth study and comments by the appropriate authorities of each member State. Subsequently, ECA should circulate the comments it received to all member States to provide the basis for informed decision.

*Implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s: Progress report* [agenda item 6(g)]

209. Under this agenda item, the meeting discussed document E/ECA/CM.20/22 entitled: "Implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s: Progress report".

210. The Committee appreciated the mid-term assessment of the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa because it brought out the difficulties affecting some national statistical administrations. At the same time, the document provided information on the successful experiences of some countries. The Committee noted with satisfaction ECA's efforts in raising the awareness of member States to the importance of the Plan of Action through its wide dissemination to relevant institutions. Guidelines for needs assessment and strategy formulation for implementing the Plan, taking into account the specific situation in each country, had also been disseminated to member States.

211. The Committee regretted the slowness of the response to needs assessment surveys at the national levels. To date, only 14 countries were implementing the Plan. It was important to involve both public and private sectors in the national needs assessment. Statistical needs assessment was a dynamic process that required updating of data. Kenya and Nigeria have undertaken needs assessment programmes from which other countries can benefit.

212. The Committee recognized the need for external technical assistance to support countries in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action. Monitoring the implementation of the Plan of Action required the production of periodic reports by statistical institutions, in collaboration with all national institutions concerned with statistical development programmes. To this end, ECA would soon make available to member States a document describing the framework for monitoring. African Statistics Day had been set for 18 November of each year and was celebrated for the fourth time on 18 November 1993. This event was one of those emphasizing the importance of the role of statistics in all aspects of socio-economic life and was also an attempt to improve the substance of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action.

213. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the twenty-eighth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, held in New York in March 1993, viewed the Plan of Action as the best platform for future technical cooperation for statistical development in Africa. The recognition of this framework implied an active role for ECA in this area, along with the increased financial requirements. The Committee hoped that the regular United Nations programme of technical cooperation for world-wide statistical development would be reviewed and that the resources for meeting the needs of such cooperation would be allocated to ECA to facilitate implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action.

214. The Committee noted the difficulties which currently impeded the funding of ECA activities relating to the Plan, within the context of the

arrangements for Technical Support Services (TSS) (TSS1 and TSS2). However, it was pointed out that ECA would contact the United Nations Department of Support and Management Services to assist in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action.

215. The Committee took note of the suggestions to recognize the importance of statistical operations for public administration. It noted the wealth of experience of some African countries in statistical development, which could be used to strengthen implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action within the framework of technical cooperation among developing countries.

216. Finally, the Committee called upon funding organizations to increase their support of statistical development efforts in Africa at national, sub-regional and regional levels.

217. The Committee took note of the report.

*Science and technology for the development of Africa* [agenda item 6(h)]

218. The Committee considered document E/ECA/-CM.20/29 entitled "Science and technology for the development of Africa."

219. The Committee noted that Africa's poor economic growth was partly attributable to heavy reliance on export of raw materials and commodities. This, in turn, was due to lack of indigenous scientific and technological capacity to add value to the raw materials. With the international market price of these commodities continuously falling and the growing possibilities of developed countries producing synthetics and other substitutes through advanced technologies, there was an urgent need for African countries to redress the situation and to make a breakthrough in the application of science and technology for their development.

220. The Committee appreciated the initiatives of ECA, in collaboration with OAU, ADB and the African scientific community, to promote the development and application of science and technology for African development through the establishment of regional institutions.

221. The Committee observed that among the factors responsible for Africa's lack of technological advancement are the continuing mystification of science and technology; the failure to assimilate scientific and technological practices; the lack of deliberate effort to harness existing capacities in S&T in individual countries; and the absence of serious interface between African scientists and policy makers. The Committee emphasized the need to remove these impediments to promoting science and technology for development in Africa. In particular, it advised that ECA should avoid the traditional approach to policy interface between policy makers and scientists based on occasional retreats in exclusive resorts. Dialogue between African scientists and policy makers should be more frequent.

222. The Committee recognized the need to accord high-level attention to issues of science and technology in Africa, and suggested that national participation in the African Regional Conference on Science and Technology be upgraded to level of ministers responsible for science and technology.

223. Regarding the establishment of the African Foundation for Research and Development (AFRAND), the Committee was informed of the progress made since the promoters were encouraged by the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers to proceed with the feasibility study on its establishment. The Committee heard that the feasibility study had been evaluated by the Evaluation Conference, in May 1993, which recommended its establishment to the Task Force on AFRAND. In turn, the Task Force accepted the recommendation which it presented to the first Presidential Forum on Management of Science and Technology for Development in Africa which was held in Gaborone, Botswana in October/November 1993. The Presidential Forum, which was organized by the Research and Development for Science-Led Development in Africa (RANDFORUM), with the collaboration of ECA, supported the establishment of an autonomous, continent-wide African Foundation For Research and Development (AFRAND) in order to provide an enduring resource base for sustaining development oriented R&D in Africa.

224. The Committee cautioned against the creation of another S&T organization when many others which had been established before were suffering from lack of financial resources. Concerns were expressed that the new institution would require financing from member States which were already overburdened with the contributions to the existing institutions. It was explained, however, that a major objective of AFRAND was to mobilize financial resources for funding R&D activities and that it would promote collaboration and interface between R&D specialists, entrepreneurs, industrialists and funding agencies. As such, it would not require mandatory contributions from the member States in the way the existing R&D institutions require.

225. In connection with the proposed establishment of AFRAND, the Committee was informed that OAU had been represented at a high level in all the meetings organized, particularly the Presidential Forum held in Gaborone in October 1993. Given the fact that the policy organs of OAU were setting up science and technology development structures within the Organization, OAU would communicate its final position on the proposed establishment of AFRAND at a later date.

226. The Committee took note of the report as well as the forthcoming Presidential Forum on the establishment of AFRAND and requested the ECA secretariat to pursue the feasibility study.

*Strategy and Programme of Action for marine and ocean affairs in Africa* [agenda item 6(i)]

227. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.20/34 entitled "Strategy and Programme of Action for marine and ocean affairs in Africa".

228. The Committee noted that the document was the report of a high-level regional leadership seminar on marine/ocean affairs that was organized by ECA, in collaboration with the International Ocean Institute (IOI), from 28 March to 2 April 1994 in Addis Ababa. It was the first seminar of its kind held in Africa since the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) was adopted in 1982. The Convention will come into force in November 1994. Of the 61 countries which had ratified the Convention world-wide at that time, 27 were African States.

229. The Committee observed that the objectives of the leadership seminar on marine and ocean affairs were to assist African countries in developing policies, strategies and guidelines for enhancing the exploration and exploitation of marine/ocean resources at the national, subregional and regional levels; provide a forum for dialogue among African senior government officials in this sector on how to interpret, implement and benefit from UNCLOS; and take into account the provisions of UNCLOS and Agenda 21 in order to promote sustainable development.

230. The provisions of the Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Committee noted, provided African countries opportunities to benefit from exploitation of these resources. ECA had been assisting African coastal, island and land-locked countries in creating awareness about UNCLOS and encouraging them to ratify the Convention; providing advisory services on capacity building for exploration, exploitation and management of ocean resources; and organizing sensitization meetings and training workshops/seminars.

231. It was noted that all the five subregions of Africa were rich in marine resources which, if exploited rationally, would go a long way towards creating food balance and food security. Furthermore, the oceans had both living and non-living resources which could be exploited to contribute significantly towards attaining food security and overall socio-economic development.

232. The Committee endorsed the Strategy and Programme of Action for Marine/Ocean Affairs Development in Africa which was the outcome of the leadership seminar. The Strategy and Programme of Action contained measures that needed to be implemented by member States, international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in order to develop African capabilities for exploiting the sea resources available in seas surrounding Africa. The Strategy recommended actions relating to the ratification and establishment of legislation for activities in the area of marine resource exploitation; institutional framework, particularly coordination mechanism at national level and cooperation among States, including data collection, analysis and dissemination; policy framework including the formulation of policies for development of capabilities to explore and exploit resources; special needs of land-locked States; project identification and elaboration; and the mobilization of financial resources from international funding agencies. The Committee urged member States to incorporate the Strategy in their national and subregional programmes for the management of marine and ocean resources.

233. The Committee took note of the report and adopted draft resolution 5 (XV).

*ECA activities in the field of emergency, humanitarian, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development in Africa: Progress report* [agenda item 6(j)]

234. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.20/23 entitled "ECA activities in the field of emergency, humanitarian, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development in Africa: Progress report".

235. The Committee observed that Africa had, over many years, suffered from the effects of extremely serious conflicts, resulting in the displacement of millions of people. Periodic droughts had similarly contributed to emergency conditions. African capacities for responding to such emergencies were inadequate. In view of the large number of existing and potential "trouble spots" in Africa, the Committee noted that the United Nations in general, and ECA in particular, had indispensable roles to play in terms of responding to the complex emergencies that were erupting throughout the region.

236. The Committee further noted that traditionally, ECA had played a major role in providing support to subregional and regional efforts that promoted economic development, integration and cooperation. Taking into account the new United Nations vision of humanitarian assistance, reconstruction and development, the Committee stressed that preventive diplomacy had economic and social dimensions.

237. The Committee noted ECA's strategy for dealing with these emergencies which encompassed the continuum from rehabilitation to reconstruction and development; and continuum from national to subregional and regional levels. Towards this end, the Committee noted that ECA had prepared a report "Agenda on emergency, humanitarian, rehabilitation and reconstruction affairs in Africa". This report

formed the basis of missions fielded by ECA to Ethiopia, Eritrea, Mozambique, Rwanda and Somalia. The Committee took note of the fact that the Government of Mozambique expected ECA to be involved in mobilizing financial resources for implementation of that country's master plan for reconstruction and development.

238. While it welcomed external assistance for dealing with humanitarian emergencies in Africa, the Committee suggested the involvement of African NGOs in management and distribution of relief supplies to African countries in need of help.

239. In order for the ECA agenda for emergency to be fully comprehensive for tackling both natural and man-made disasters in the region, the Committee suggested that additional prerequisites such as the establishment of a database on both national and regional potential to respond to such disasters; formulation of regional and national plans to deal with natural disasters; and coordination at national and regional levels to respond to emergency and humanitarian relief appeals, should be incorporated in the agenda. Together with other international institutions and NGOs, the Committee believed that a more comprehensive framework, with these additional attributes, could be evolved.

240. The Committee noted the report and adopted draft resolution 6 (XV).

## PART IV.
## STATUTORY ISSUES

*Staff and administrative questions* [agenda item 7(a)]

241. The Committee took note of the report on staff and administrative questions (E/ECA/CM.20/24). It also took note of the additional information provided on the appointment of a new United Nations Under-Secretary-General in charge of administration, the participation of ECA staff members in the monitoring of elections in South Africa, as well as the date set for the completion of the new ECA conference centre at ECA headquarters, namely 28 March 1995. The new centre, it was noted, would become operational a few months subsequent to that date.

*Issues from the subsidiary organs and sectoral bodies of the Commission calling for action by the Conference of Ministers* [agenda 7(b)]

242. The Committee took note of documents E/ECA/CM.20/25, E/ECA/CM.20/25/Add.1 and E/ECA/CM.20/25/Add.2/Rev.1 containing resolutions and decisions submitted to the Commission for consideration and adoption or for information by the subsidiary organs which had held meetings since the last session of the Commission. The Committee took note of the reports and adopted draft resolutions 11 (XV), 12 (XV), 13 (XV), 14 (XV), 15 (XV), 16 (XV), 17 (XV), 18 (XV), 19 (XV), 20 (XV), 21 (XV), 22 (XV), 23 (XV) and 24 (XV).

## PART V.
## PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES OF THE COMMISSION

*Proposals for updating the 1994-1995 programme of work and priorities in the light of General Assembly appropriations* [agenda item 8(a)]

243. The Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.20/26 entitled "Proposals for updating the 1994-1995 programme of work and priorities in the light of General Assembly appropriations".

244. The Committee approved the activities proposed for inclusion in the 1994-1995 programme of work and priorities as contained in the document.

*Programme evaluation in the Economic Commission for Africa* [agenda item 8(b)]

245. The Committee considered documents E/ECA/CM.20/27, E/ECA/CM.20/27/Add.1 and E/ECA/CM.20/27/Add.2 entitled "Programme evaluation in the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa".

246. The Committee appreciated the reports on the evaluation of the programmes undertaken since the last session of the Commission. The Committee noted that there were four types of evaluation, namely self-evaluation, ad hoc evaluation, in-depth evaluation and external evaluation.

247. The Committee noted that the self-evaluations carried out covered about one-third of the subprogrammes of the Commission and that the findings confirmed the need for improving relevance to the priorities of member States. The need to give due consideration to the specific needs of least developed, land-locked and island countries, in conformity with the related international action programmes was, in particular, pointed out.

248. The Committee, however, noted with regret that some key activities of interest to African member States had not been undertaken because of lack of resources. The cancellation of the activities relating to monitoring of the movement of dangerous and toxic waste in Africa was singled out as an example of such activity.

249. The Committee took note of the reports and the programme on development issues and policies (DIP), ECA; and Programme 45: Critical economic situation, recovery and development in Africa. The Committee took note with appreciation of the recommendations in the reports. The recommendation on the strengthening of the capacities of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) were particularly endorsed. In this regard, the Committee commended the initiatives

already taken by the Executive Secretary towards that end, including the outposting of some regional advisers to the MULPOCs.

250. With regard to Programme 45 on Africa's critical situation, recovery and development, the Committee referred to its earlier discussion on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and the general view about the importance of effective co-ordination of the implementation of the programme. However, the Committee noted that the resources made available to the various subprogrammes for the implementation of UN-NADAF were not evenly distributed and that the amount allocated to the Commission was grossly inadequate.

251. The Committee suggested that the resolution on UN-NADAF should also take care of the need for strengthening the capacity of the Commission in responding to its expanded responsibilities for improved coordination at the regional level, in the framework of the implementation of UN-NADAF and the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. The Committee expressed the view that consideration should be given towards the decentralization of the whole of Programme 45.

252. The Committee took note of the reports and adopted draft resolutions 7 (XV), 8 (XV) and 9 (XV).

*Strengthening ECA operational capacity: extra-budgetary resources, current situation and future prospects* (agenda item 8(c))

253. The Committee considered document E/ECA/-CM.20/28 entitled "Strengthening ECA operational capacity: extrabudgetary resources, current status and prospects".

254. The Committee observed that, in resolution 33/202 adopted in 1979, the General Assembly had granted the status of executing agencies to the regional commissions. This enabled ECA to supplement the resources available to it from the United Nations regular budget with extrabudgetary resources provided by the funding agencies of the United Nations, specifically UNDP and UNFPA, for its technical programmes of assistance to its member States. The Commission also obtained extrabudgetary resources from bilateral and multilateral sources outside the United Nations system.

255. The Committee noted that the situation of extrabudgetary resources had worsened drastically during the 1992-1993 biennium, falling to $29,163,052 from $45,647,531 in the previous biennium. This decline was attributed to a number of reasons: the most significant factor was the reduction in funds from UNDP and UNFPA due largely to the implementation of General Assembly resolutions on national execution of development projects. Resources provided by the two institutions to ECA declined from $51,406,334 under the fourth programming cycle to a negligible allocation under the fifth programming cycle. During the 1992-1993 biennium, resources provided to ECA from UNDP amounted to $15,034,630, or nearly 52 per cent of ECA's extrabudgetary resources for that period. Bilateral resources also diminished due to the reduction in pledges and actual contributions to UNTFAD by member States.

256. To counteract this undesirable situation, the Committee noted that the Commission had intensified its efforts to attract funding from bilateral sources. The Committee considered the proposal of allocating about 1 per cent of their UNDP national IPFs to be utilized to finance regional and sub-regional integration projects.

257. The Committee took note of the report and adopted draft resolution 10 (XV).

*Any other business* (agenda item 9)

258. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered document E/ECA/CM.30/36 on the proposal for an amendment of the terms of reference and renaming the Commission the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Africa.

259. Some participants argued that the proposal was meant to bring the name of the Commission to reflect its mandate, as such they had no difficulty with the proposal, especially if a change in the name would attract more resources to the Commission. However, some other delegations felt that since the scope of ECA's activities had always encompassed the social aspects of development, in accordance with its mandate, there was no need for a change in name. They also observed that resources were mobilized on the basis of mandate rather than name. Thus UNECA would still attract financial resources on the basis of the mandate. Still, some others argued that an issue of such importance needed discussion at the national level and would therefore require more time for their governments to formulate their position on the issue.

260. The Committee then decided to refer the proposal to the Conference of Ministers for further consideration.

*Date and venue of the sixteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW)* (agenda item 10)

261. The Committee decided to refer this agenda item to the Ministers.

*Adoption of the report* (agenda item 11)

262. Under this agenda item, the Chairman of the sub-committee on resolutions made a presentation on the work of the sub-committee. He said that the

sub-committee had, in addition to all the draft resolutions, decisions and declarations referred to it, considered the document entitled "Agenda for building and utilizing critical capacities in Africa: A preliminary report" (E/ECA/CM.20/6).

263. The document synthesized the issues raised and the analysis and conclusions drawn in the eight area theme papers which had been discussed in plenary. The report was still preliminary at this stage and as such, only raised those issues that were of central relevance to development capacity building in Africa. It was also preliminary in that the meeting of the Conference of Ministers, through this sub-committee and TEPCOW, was expected to examine the analysis, conclusions and recommendations of the report with a view to enriching them and to providing the guidance necessary for a full and complete study to be undertaken and submitted to the 1995 meeting of the Conference of Ministers for consideration. It was expected that the entire exercise would culminate in a medium- to long-term programme of cooperation which should constitute the framework for action on Africa's development priorities by African countries individually and collectively as well as by their development partners.

264. The sub-committee had commended the secretariat for the quality of the document and had prepared a draft resolution on the framework agenda for building and utilizing critical capacities in Africa for consideration and adoption by the Conference of Ministers through TEPCOW.

265. The Committee took note of the presentation of the Chairman of the sub-committee and adopted draft resolution 2 (XV).

*Closure of the meeting* (agenda item 12)

266. The Chairman thanked the participants, the Executive Secretary and members of staff of the secretariat for their cooperation and support which facilitated the successful conclusion of the meeting.

267. The Executive Secretary expressed his gratitude to all the delegations for their contribution to the success of the meeting. He was particularly encouraged by their frank contributions regarding issues related to critical capacity building for the accelerated socio-economic development for the African region. He thanked the Chairman and all members of the Bureau for the effective way in which they conducted the affairs of the Committee.

268. The Chairman then declared the meeting closed.

Annex II

## MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES HELD DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW (7 MAY 1993 - 5 MAY 1994)

| Body and officers | Meeting | Document symbol |
|---|---|---|
| Conference of African Ministers of Trade<br><br>Chairman: Tunisia<br>Rapporteur: Congo | Twelfth meeting<br>22-24 October 1993<br><br>Tunis, Tunisia | E/ECA/TRADE/93/23 |
| Regional Conference on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa<br><br>Chairman: Ethiopia<br>First Rapporteur: Ghana<br>Second Rapporteur: Gabon | Fifth meeting<br>10-17 November 1993<br><br>Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | ECA/NRD/FRCDUMRA/9 |
| Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Science and Technology Development<br><br>Chairman: Ethiopia<br>First Rapporteur: Botswana<br>Second Rapporteur: Cape Verde | Eighth meeting<br>22-25 November 1993<br><br>Addis Ababa | ECA/NRD/S&T/IGCESTD/8 |
| Conference of African Ministers of Finance<br><br>Chairman: Gabon<br>Rapporteur: Mozambique | Fifth meeting<br>1-2 March 1994<br><br>Libreville, Gabon | E/ECA/TRADE/94/3 |
| Joint Conference of African Planners Statisticians, Demographers and Information Scientists<br><br>Chairman. Morocco<br>Rapporteur: Uganda | Eighth meeting<br>21-26 March 1994<br><br>Addis Ababa | E/ECA/PSD.8/28 |
| Meeting of the Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC)<br><br>President: Nigeria<br>Rapporteur: Uganda | Fifteenth meeting<br>20-22 April 1994<br><br>Addis Ababa | E/ECA/ATRCW/ARCC.XV/94/10 |
| Meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW)<br><br>Chairman: Tunisia<br>Rapporteur: Gabon | Fifteenth meeting<br>26 April - 1 May 1994<br><br>Addis Ababa | E/ECA/CM.20/37/Rev.1 |

Annex III

## LIST OF DOCUMENTS

| Symbol | Title |
|---|---|
| E/ECA/TPCW.15/1/Rev.1 | Provisional agenda |
| E/ECA/TPCW.15/1/Add.1 | Annotated provisional agenda |
| E/ECA/CM.20/1/Rev.1 | Provisional agenda |
| E/ECA/CM.20/1/Add.1 | Annotated provisional agenda |
| E/ECA/CM.20/2 | Economic Report on Africa 1994 |
| E/ECA/CM.20/3 | Report on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) |
| E/ECA/CM.20/4 | Biennial report of the Executive Secretary |
| E/ECA/CM.20/5 | Issues before the Conference |
| E/ECA/CM.20/6 | A framework agenda for building and utilizing critical capacities in Africa: A preliminary report |
| E/ECA/CM.207 | Critical capacities in support of good governance, political stability, peace and security in Africa |
| E/ECA/CM.20/8 | Critical capacities for effective socio-economic policy analysis and management |
| E/ECA/CM.20/9 | Building, strengthening and effectively utilizing human capacities for sustained development in Africa |
| E/ECA/CM.20/10 | Developing entrepreneurial capacities for public and private sector enterprise |
| E/ECA/CM.20/11 | Critical capacities for the mobilization and efficient allocation of domestic and external financial resources |
| E/ECA/CM.20/12 | Building and utilizing physical infrastructural capacities in Africa |
| E/ECA/CM.20/13 | Capacity building for food production, self-sufficiency and security in Africa |
| E/ECA/CM.20/14 | Capacities to exploit natural resources and diversify African economies into processing and manufacturing |
| E/ECA/CM.20/15 | Policy convergence for regional economic cooperation and integration: Implementation of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community |
| E/ECA/CM.20/16 | Implementation of the African Strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21 and the African Common Position: Progress report |
| E/ECA/CM.20/17 | Preparatory activities of the World Summit for Social Development: Progress report |
| E/ECA/CM.20/18 | Preparatory activities of the fourth World Conference on Women: Progress report |
| E/ECA/CM.20/19<br>E/ECA/CM.20/19/Add.1 | Preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development: Progress report |
| E/ECA/CM.20/20 | The African Federation of Women Entrepreneurs (AFWE) and the creation of an African bank for women: Progress report |
| E/ECA/CM.20/21 | Report of the Ad hoc Committee of member States on the rationalization and harmonization of UNECA-sponsored institutions |

| Symbol | Title |
|---|---|
| E/ECA/CM.20/22 | Implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s: Progress report |
| E/ECA/CM.20/23 | UNECA activities in the field of emergency relief, humanitarian assistance, reconstruction and development in Africa: Progress report |
| E/ECA/CM.20/24 | Staff and administrative questions |
| E/ECA/CM.20/25<br>E/ECA/CM.20/25/Add.1<br>E/ECA/CM.20/25/Add.2 | Issues arising from the subsidiary organs and sectoral bodies of the Commission calling for action by the Conference of Ministers |
| E/ECA/CM.20/26 | Proposals for updating the 1994-1995 programme of work and priorities in the light of General Assembly appropriations |
| E/ECA/CM.20/27<br>E/ECA/CM.20/27/Add.1<br>E/ECA/CM.20/27/Add.2/Rev.1 | Programme evaluation in the Economic Commission for Africa |
| E/ECA/CM.20/28 | Strengthening ECA operational capacity: Extrabudgetary resources: Current status and prospects |
| E/ECA/CM.20/29 | Science and technology for the development of Africa |
| E/ECA/CM.20/30<br>E/ECA/CM.20/30/Add.1 | African Common Position and the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and the World Conference |
| E/ECA/CM.20/31 | Anticipated impact of the Uruguay Round Agreements on African economies: A preliminary analysis |
| E/ECA/CM.20/32 | Preparations for the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements: Habitat II |
| E/ECA/CM.20/33 | Towards socio-economic development of democratic South Africa: ECA's role in perspective |
| E/ECA/CM.20/34 | Strategy and Programme of Action for marine/ocean affairs in Africa |
| E/ECA/CM.20/36 | Proposal for an amendment of the terms of reference of the Commission to rename UNECA the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Africa |
| E/ECA/CM.20/37/Rev.1 | Report of the fifteenth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole |
| E/ECA/CM.20/CRP.1 | Follow-up action on relevant resolutions adopted by the twenty-eighth session of the Commission/nineteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers |
| E/ECA/CM.20/CRP.2 | Resolutions adopted by ECOSOC at its substantive session of 1993 and by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session in the economic and social sectors that are of interest to Africa |
| E/ECA/CM.20/CRP.3 | Joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat: Note by the ECA secretariat |
| E/ECA/CM.20/CRP.4 | Dynamic simulation of the macroeconomic impact of the devaluation of the CFA franc |
| E/ECA/CM.20/CRP.5 | Mid-term regional report for Africa on the implementation of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction: Country natural disaster profile |

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